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Wilmington Library News:

Santa visits the library on Monday, Dec. 9

The library will be closed on Friday, Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. for staff development.

Adult Programs

Needleworkers at Night

Monday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.

These nighttime sessions are perfect for anyone who does any kind of needle craft but can't make it to Needleworkers during the day! Drop-in. Now meeting every Monday in the cozy seating area on the first floor of the Library.

Cookin' the Books

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 12 p.m.

If you love to cook and enjoy talking about food and sharing recipes then this group is for you. Pick up a copy of the cookbook (or find a recipe from the book online), register on the library events calendar and record your recipe using this Google Sheet. Once you register for the program, you'll be able to see what dishes others are bringing by viewing the Google Sheet. Bring your dish to the meeting and enjoy sampling everyone's dishes! This month's featured cookbook is Hot Sheet by Olga Massov & Sanae Lemoine. There will also be a Christmas Cookie Swap during this meeting. Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to swap!

Drop-in Tech Help

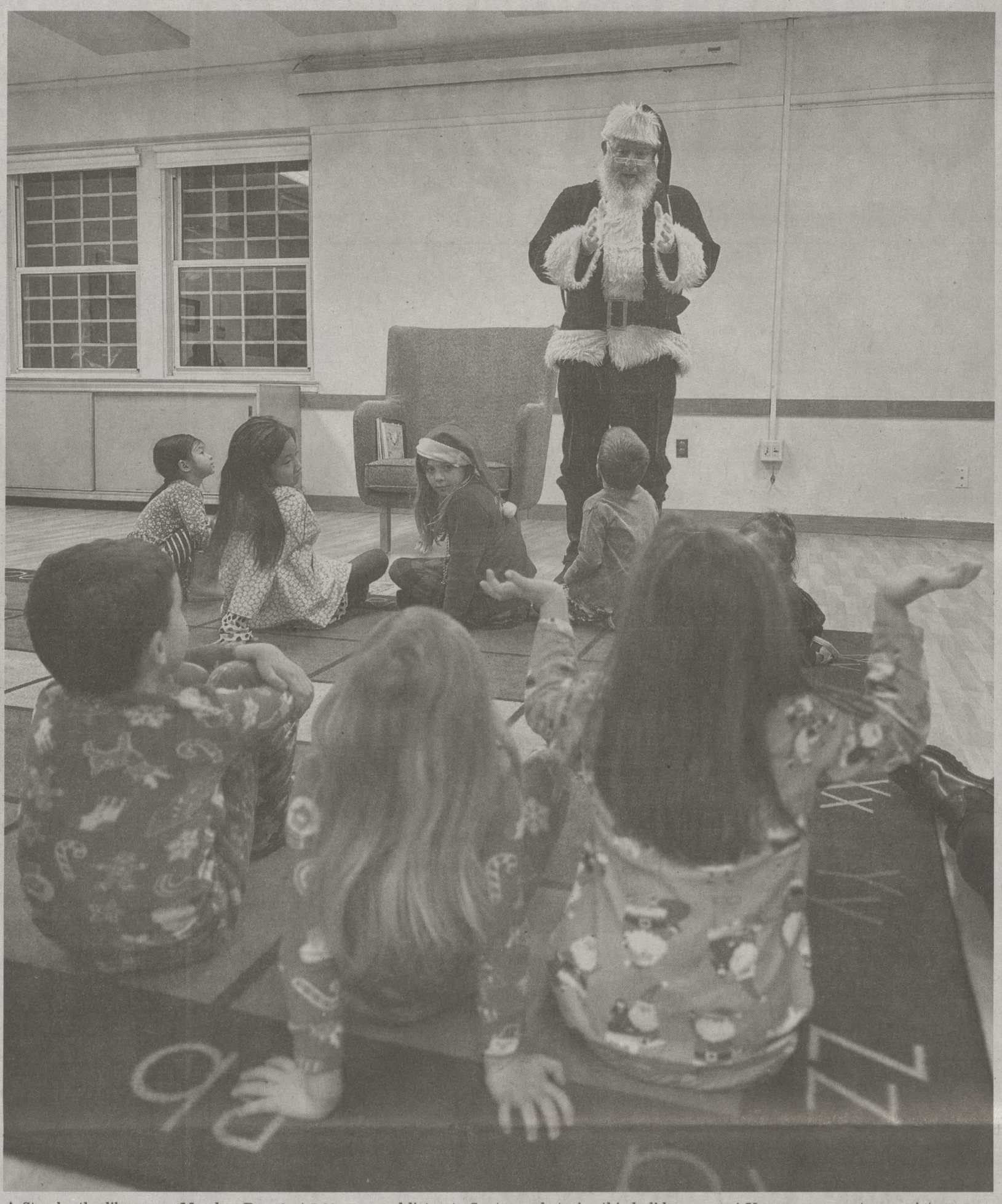
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.

Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

Author Talk: Ted Reinstein

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m.

Join author and journalist Ted Reinstein for a talk on his latest book Travels Through the Heart and Soul of New England. Ted Reinstein is best known in New England as a journalist and reporter for "Chronicle," Boston's celebrated — and America's longest-running, locally-produced TV newsmagazine. While he appears occasionally in the studio at the anchor desk or delivering an opinion commentary, it's out in the field where viewers are most familiar seeing Ted. From every corner of New England, he's found the offbeat, the unique, the moving, and the just plain memorable, all while telling the enduringly colorful stories of the region's people and places.



▲ Stop by the library on Monday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. and listen to Santa read stories this holiday season! You can even get your picture taken with the jolly man himself! (Courtesy photo)

Craft & Chat

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m.

Enjoy making a craft while socializing with others! This craft group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. All craft supplies provided. This month's featured craft is "Stained" Glass.

A Christmas Carol with the Delvena Theatre Company

Thursday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m.

Join the Delvena Theatre Company for a dramatic reading, with scenes, of A Christmas Carol. The Charles Dickens' classic will be performed, complete with period costumes and music.

Youth Programs

Bilingual Story Hour

Monday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.

Practice using your home language with the Community Teamwork Family Resource Network! Each month, Community Teamwork will read a story in a non-English language. We encourage parents to join us and participate in whatever language they speak. At the playgroup participants will work on Early Literacy skills and more! Ask CTI about any resources they can help provide for you and your family. If you are interested in volunteering to help lead a Bilingual Story Hour, please reach out to Chris Cole, CTI's CFCE Supervisor, at *ccole@commteam.org*! Ages 0-6 and their caregivers

Santa Claus Is Coming to the Library!

Monday, Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Drop-in and listen to Santa read stories this holiday season! You can even get your picture taken with the jolly man himself! All ages

Mindful Movement

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.

Join library pals as we flow through children's yoga poses, mindful movements, and read some books to help us grow in mindfulness and peace. Grades K-2

Music with Dara

Thursday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.

With keyboard, felt board, finger puppets, and engaging visual props, Dara weaves songs (old and new favorites), fingerplays, rhythmic activities/simple instrument playing, and creative movement for a fun-filled musical 30-45 minute program. Lots of clapping, marching, singing, creative expression and FUN! Ages 2-5, siblings welcome

Crafternoon

Thursday, Dec. 12, 3:45 p.m.

Join us at Crafternoon! This month's featured craft is String Art Cards. Grades 4-8

VIRTUAL College Admissions Drop In Q&A

Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

Drop in on Zoom to get answers to your questions about college admissions, from scholarships and funding, to visiting and deciding on the right school for you. This program is presented by Tom O'Hare, an independent education advisor affiliated with Pivotal College Years. Teens and Adults

Winter Landscape Collage

Friday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m.

Collage a wintry landscape at the library using watercolor, torn paper, tape and glue! Grades 6-12

Gingerbread Cookie Making with Junior WOW

Saturday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m.

Get into the holiday spirit with some cookie decorating! Junior We're One Wilmington will be providing the cookies and decorating supplies. All ages

Additional Information

Book Store Next Door

The Book Store Next Door is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop discount books! Paperbacks for $1 and hardcovers for $2. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Library and all proceeds help support library programs.

Museum Passes

The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list on our website!

WML In-Person Programming

Registration is required for most in-person programs. Please check our website on the day of the program to confirm location. Masks are no longer required for vaccinated patrons while visiting the library.

WML Virtual Programming

The library continues to offer a variety of virtual events. Please note that registration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. Go to *wilmlibrary.org* to register or call 978-658-2967.

Advertisement

It's Your Money

by Todd Brisbois

UNDERSTANDING THE CREDIT FOR OTHER DEPENDENTS

Taxpayers with dependents who don't qualify for the Child Tax Credit may be able to claim the Credit for Other Dependents. They can claim this credit in addition to the Child and Dependent Care Credit and the Earned Income Credit. Here's more information to help taxpayers determine whether they're eligible to claim the Credit for Other Dependents on their 2022 tax return.

The maximum credit amount is $500 for each dependent who meets certain conditions. This credit can be claimed for:

- Dependents of any age, including those who are age 18 or older.
- Dependents who have Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification numbers.
- Dependent parents or other qualifying relatives supported by the taxpayer.
- Dependents living with the taxpayer who aren't related to the taxpayer.

The credit begins to phase out when the taxpayer's income is more than $200,000. This phaseout begins for married couples filing a joint tax return at $400,000. A taxpayer can claim this credit if:

- They claim the person as a dependent on the taxpayer's return.
- They cannot use the dependent to claim the child tax credit or additional child tax credit.
- The dependent is a U.S. citizen, national or resident alien.

Presented as a service to the community by

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Santa Parade returns to Wilmington on Dec. 8

WILMINGTON —Wilmington's Santa Parade is back again this year! The parade is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8 and will kick off starting at 8 a.m.

We will be collecting toy and food pantry donations as well as letters for military troops along the parade route by passing them to the elves on the A&S Towing truck in the parade line-up. Residents also have the option of dropping them off at the Wilmington Public Safety Building.

Toy donations will go to Wilmington children in need through the Wilmington Fire Department's Toys for Children Drive. The town food pantry will receive the food collected.

The parade route will be published soon in detail on the event Facebook page, "Wilmington, MA Santa Parade." People can check out the approximate times and the route on the Facebook page. They can also get live updates on that same page throughout the day during the parade.

The Santa Parade Facebook page reminds everyone that the safety of the volunteers and the public coming out to see the "big guy" is paramount. Inclement weather and road conditions could change the route and timing of the parade. Published times are approximate as traffic conditions may also impact the schedules.

Lifestyle

Be careful of the holiday cactus mix-up

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

Nothing can bring joy to your home during the holiday season quite like a Christmas cactus in full bloom.

The Christmas cactus is a popular, easy to care for plant that will reward its owner with a dazzling floral display just in time for the holiday season.

However, what "exact" holiday season can sometimes be confusing for the Christmas cactus owner.

Often due to mislabeling by retailers, the full bloom color of this plant can often come at the wrong, or rather, an unexpected holiday time frame.

Many cactus owners are surprised to find that their beautiful "Christmas" cactus is in full bloom between Halloween and Thanksgiving, or in early spring, closer to Easter.

This calendar confusion is not on the part of the plant so much as it is the plant purchaser.

Most likely these off-date blooming plants are not actually Christmas cactus, but rather Thanksgiving or Easter cactus. Both are easily mistaken for the more traditional Christmas plant.

Thanksgiving and Christmas cactus are both members of the genus *Schlumbergera*, while Easter cactus is in the genus *Rhipsalidobis*.

Luckily, for the plant owner unaware that their cactus may not be a traditional Christmas cactus, the Thanksgiving and Easter cactus require similar low maintenance care, although the Easter cactus can be a bit more temperamental.

If you are unsure of which type of holiday cactus you own, there are several easy to spot, tell-tale signs for each cactus.

All of the holiday cacti have a similar shape, structure, and bloom, but at closer look, the odes (foliage or stem) shape is slightly different for each type of plant.

Thanksgiving cactus have a pointed edge on each segment, while the Christmas cactus has more of a smooth notched shape.

The Easter version has rounded edges with tiny bristles at the joint.

Easter cactus are also known for their star-shaped blossom that opens in the day, and closes at night.

The Easter version of this plant is also not typically available for purchase in the fall and early winter months, and they prefer more humidity and moderate light levels compared to their winter counterparts.

Another way to differentiate between a Thanksgiving and Christmas cactus is that the Thanksgiving plant tends to grow up-right and the Christmas version tends to hang downward, almost like a drooping branch.

To add just a bit more confusion to the holiday cactus mix, many of the varieties that are for sale in your local retailer at this time of year are actually cross hybrids of a Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus, but are sold with the generic label of "holiday cactus."

Depending upon the varieties used to cross breed, many of the hybrid plants can bloom anywhere between early November and late January.

The typical bloom period for a Thanksgiving cactus is late October to mid-December. Christmas cactus traditionally bloom from early December to late January, and Easter cactus bloom late winter to early spring.

It is not uncommon for holiday cacti to have a second blooming period in late spring or early summer, however, this second bloom period may not be as showy as the first blooming period.

Both the Christmas and Thanksgiving plants come in a large variety of colors, such as pink, red, white, purple, orange, and peach, ranging from bright to pale in hue.

The Easter variety comes in a range of bright spring colors, such as pink, purple and red.

Although these plants wear the name "cactus," they are not like the drought tolerant cactus of the desert, but more like a tropical succulent plant.

Many holiday cactus owners are under the impression that these plants require little to no water, but that is untrue. Because holiday cactus are NOT drought tolerant, they require regular moisture.

Water plants thoroughly when the top inch of pot soil is dry, but do not overwater.

A holiday cactus that sits in a pool of water or in overdamp soil will rot and eventually die. Always let the soil fully dry before watering again.

A typical water cycle should be once every one to two weeks, depending on your home environment and the soil drainage of the pot.

To encourage a healthy bloom cycle, water holiday cactus a bit less than normal six weeks before their scheduled bloom period. Having a dryer pot soil atmosphere will promote more blooms.

When plants are in full bloom, keep plants well hydrated without soaking to ensure a prosperous blooming period for the next cycle.

Holiday cactus prefer soil that is well drained, and enjoy being somewhat pot bound (having a cramped space for root growth), but will need to be re-potted every three to four years.

If you find your holiday cactus is not blooming properly, or not at all, it may be because of a poor choice of location for your plant in your home or from lack of water.

Keep your holiday cactus in bright, but indirect sunlight, and avoid areas that are too warm or too drafty.

For those looking to brighten their holiday season without a lot of care and effort, a holiday cactus may be the answer for your holiday floral decorating and gift giving needs.

With the addition of a few holiday cacti to accent your home or as gifts to check off on your shopping list, this low maintenance bloomer could be the gift that keeps on giving the whole year long.

▲ Thanksgiving cactus look very similar to the traditional Christmas cactus, but have firmer stems that grow upwards, while the traditional Christmas cactus tends to hang or droop. (Heather Burns photos)

Visit Francis William Bird Park in Walpole

By PAIGE IMPINK
News Correspondent

On a recent fall afternoon, we took a detour to Walpole to check out a Trustees property that I had heard about for years. Francis William Bird Park is an 89-acre haven in the middle of a residential area. The park, full of walking trails and ponds, is a lovely stop if you are heading south on Route 95 or to the south shore as we were.

Donated to The Trustees (of Reservations) in 2003, the property was developed in memory of Francis William Bird, son of industrialist Charles Sumner Bird, Sr. and his wife, Anna, for the use of their employees.

The Bird's son died of pneumonia at age 37 in 1918. The company, Bird and Son began as a paper company supplying paper for currency, eventually moving on to products such as building materials and rugs. The company was so famous at the time, it was featured on a dirigible, or blimp, the only company to be featured other than Goodyear.

The family tapped the talents of Frederick Law Olmsted student John Nolen. Nolen was a landscape designer and architect who believed, in the spirit of Olmsted and others, that exposure to natural surroundings was a mechanism for "societal improvement."

Nolen is considered the "Dean of American City Planners" for his vision of and designs for community planning. Nolen wanted to have "something for everyone" in the park, from shade to sun. He even made sure the grading of the large field was meticulously handled to encourage field sports.

The park boasts more than three miles of walking trails, a wonderful playground for children, and pickle ball courts. There are many water features and paths, and a collection of impressive mature trees such as horse chestnut, European beech, Norway spruce, hemlock, and red maple.

The Music Court building was added in 1930 and still hosts concerts in the summer. It was designed for plays and musical performances for the mill workers and their families, complete with changing rooms and rest rooms. Large performances would face Vista Field, and smaller performances could face the rear of the structure.

Bird believed in supporting the well being of his workers, and the park was designed to be "an oasis" in the middle of East Walpole.

Recent renovations have enhanced the pedestrian pathways, updated the gaming courts, and added new trees thanks to generous donors and an active Friends group.

There are ten entrances to the park. There are parking lots at Polley Lane, Rhoades Avenue and Pleasant Street. 11 stone bridges cross Pickerel Brook, which runs through the property, and three ponds including Frog Pond, which used to be a swimming hole, and a spillway which adds to the experience.

There are many birds and a resident flock of geese, whom we passed by carefully but without issue.

The park will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025 and Walpole is planning several commemorative events to mark the occasion.

To learn more, visit *https://thetrustees.org/place/francis-william-bird-park/*. If your travels take you to points south, be sure to add in some time for a walk at Bird Park.

▲ The Music Court was built in 1930 for community performances and still hosts summer concerts today. (Paige Impink photo)

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

Tewksbury Public Schools Announcement

for parents of students attending Tewksbury Public Schools: Career, Vocational, and Technical School Application Process (For schools other than Shawsheen Valley Technical High School)

Chapter 74 Non-Resident Tuition

Students interested in out-of-district placements under Chapter 74 Vocational Education for an upcoming school year must submit their application to **Tewksbury Public Schools, Brenda Theriault-Regan, Superintendent,** for the specific school they wish to attend by **April 1st** of the preceding school year. Tewksbury Public Schools reserves the right to reject any application received after that date.

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– LEGAL NOTICE –

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WILMINGTON, MA

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WILMINGTON, MA 01887

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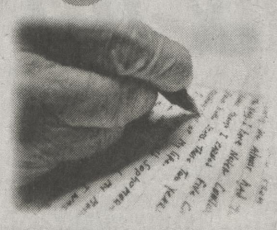
OPINION

Town Crier
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024



Letter to the editor

Is this coercion by any other means?

To the editor,

This mailer was sent out from the "TOWN" in the last week to the residents of Wilmington. Does that mean the Planning Board since they had to produce the best option by the Governor and Legislative edict? Or the Finance Committee since they and the PB had to approve the Articles? Or the Select Board who by the way voted 5-0 OPPOSING it? Or the Town Manager who the SB hired and has a three year contract in place? Or the Planning Director who is hired by the TM and is the only town employee named on this flyer?

There is currently a lawsuit against Milton by the Attorney General. This flyer is nothing more than fear mongering, by holding grant money over the town taxpayers heads and infers that the AG can enforce it which is also in question. Simultaneously, it leaves out both an affordable component and who will be flip the tab for the mitigation costs. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that one out. That would be the town taxpayers. Need I say more?

Ok, there are other legal avenues being used and explored to hold it off for another 12 months. Applying for Federal Funds from the American Housing and Mobility Act of 2024 would be a much better way to achieve housing for both, seniors and our young adults who want to stay in Wilmington.

Let's follow North Reading and Dracut's lead in the last month and vote NO this Saturday at Special Town Meeting and also sign this *https://chng.it/5QXLxWsJn6* to RECALL Governor Healey.

George Ferdinand
Tewksbury BOH
Member

Contributing $13B to economy

Massachusetts leads US in growth of outdoor recreation

BOSTON — New figures from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) emphasizes the significant expansion of Massachusetts' outdoor recreation economy. According to the BEA's Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, the sector generated $13.2 billion in value added to the state's economy in 2023 and created 103,600 jobs.

Massachusetts has distinguished itself as a leader in outdoor recreation, achieving a growth rate of 13.3 percent from 2022 to 2023, the highest among all U.S. states. This growth marks a 73 percent increase since 2012.

"This incredible growth in our outdoor recreation economy highlights our communities' strong commitment to promoting outdoor activities," said Governor Maura Healey. "Massachusetts is leading the charge nationwide, delivering substantial economic value and creating jobs that grow our local economies."

"Local communities are the backbone of our outdoor recreation economy," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Their passion for preserving our natural spaces and encouraging active lifestyles is key to our success. We are proud to watch towns and cities across Massachusetts transform into vibrant hubs of outdoor activity, while boosting jobs."

"Since launching our Office of Outdoor Recreation, we have made it our mission to ensure that the outdoors is accessible and inclusive to everyone," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "Our approach is fueling local economies and empowering communities and organizations. This report demonstrates that we can drive business growth and foster connections with our natural resources at the same time."

"Outdoor Recreation is a vital part of Massachusetts economic future," said MOOR Director Paul Jahnige. "This data emphasizes the importance of outdoor recreation, not just for individuals, but for our communities as a whole. Continuing to invest in the accessibility of our outdoor spaces, is planting a seed for economic growth in our rural towns and strengthening our states public health."

"Massachusetts' outdoor recreation is a key component of our tourism industry," said Executive Director at the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism Kate Fox. "Our breathtaking coastlines, lush forests, and vibrant parks draw visitors worldwide, boosting local economies and creating unforgettable experiences. This data underscores the importance of investing in our outdoor spaces for economic growth and is a testament to Massachusetts' beauty and spirit."

Established in December 2022, MOOR collaborates with agencies and private partners to promote outdoor activities across the state, including hunting, fishing, horseback riding, paddling, swimming, and more. Last year, BEA reported that outdoor recreation contributed over $11 billion to the economy, creating over 102,000 jobs, and boosting tourism.

"With over $1.2 trillion in economic output and generating over 5 million jobs, this marks another year of growth for the outdoor recreation economy, underscoring its resilience and importance across the nation," said Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) President Jessica Turner. "The new BEA data highlights outdoor recreation as a cornerstone of our economy, generating jobs, supporting small businesses, and providing essential opportunities for Americans to engage with the outdoors for health, connection, and quality of life. This new data should signal to policymakers that investing in outdoor infrastructure and access must remain a national, bipartisan priority."

Outdoor recreation continues to solidify its position as a critical sector in the Massachusetts economy. BEA's new report demonstrates the outstanding growth of outdoor recreation over the last decade as residents have flocked to the outdoors, seeking benefits to their health and well-being.

The positive economic impact of outdoor recreation highlights the industry's value, particularly for rural communities in Massachusetts — supporting job creation and boosting tourism. Additionally, outdoor recreation infrastructure investments in urban and rural communities and improvements to accessibility build resilient and diversified economies, connect residents, and improve public health.

The industry's contributions are essential to the economic vitality and social health of Massachusetts' towns and cities.

Holiday toy drive returns on new streaming platform

BOSTON — For many years State Senator Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) and a team of partners have travelled across the North Shore and the Merrimack Valley doing live radio broadcasts in multiple communities to support local charities working to make the holidays brighter for children throughout the region.

The broadcasts have showcased student performers, local musicians, federal, state, and municipal officials, and countless surprise guests all pulling together to focus the generosity and community spirit of the region on the task of collecting donations that make a difference in the lives of children.

Yet over the past few years the toy drive has faced numerous challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the loss of longtime broadcast partner North Shore 104.9 FM. In 2022, the drive stayed alive on the internet, through the work of Greg Blagden of Cape Ann Website Design. In 2023, the drive partnered with Pat Costa of Costa Eagle Media.

Despite setbacks, this year the drive will continue through grass root efforts by utilizing the commonly known streaming platform of Facebook live.

This year, the Northshore and Merrimack Valley Holiday Toy Drive Facebook page will broadcast the toy drive via Facebook livestream as it travels from community to community to conduct live broadcasts from eight different locations, ranging from restaurants to senior centers to local businesses, providing a place for people to gather, students and other musicians to perform, guests to be interviewed, refreshments to be served, and, most importantly, donations of toys, gift cards and cash to be collected for charities in the area.

With a tremendous amount of need to be addressed, the toy drive is expected to collect thousands of toys and thousands of dollars on Dec. 11 and Dec. 12.

"Each and every year the toy drive has highlighted just how generous and caring our neighbors on the North Shore and in the Merrimack Valley are," said Tarr. "I am thrilled that this important tradition is coming back revitalized, re-energized, and ready to do the work of making the holidays better for the kids who need us to make a difference in their lives."

Tarr continued, "This year we have been overwhelmed with the generosity and the spirit of individuals, organizations, and businesses, coming forward to join the toy drive, and we have been hard at work pulling the drive together to draw on the strength they bring as we navigate a new streaming platform."

Ways to Connect with the Toy Drive:

• Come to a livestream broadcast location (listed below) for entertainment, holiday spirit, live performances, and interviews.

• Watch the livestream broadcasts from each location via the Northshore and Merrimack Valley Holiday Toy Drive Facebook page or streaming online at *https://northshoreholidaytoydrive.org*

• Find toy drive information and donate online at *https://northshoreholidaytoydrive.org*

• Follow the toy drive: Facebook at Northshore and Merrimack Valley Holiday Toy Drive and State Senator Bruce Tarr X (formerly Twitter) at *@SenBruceTarr*

Live broadcast/event schedule:

(All locations open to the public, times are subject to change)

Wednesday, Dec. 11:

7 - 8 a.m. | Capitol Diner | 431 Union St., Lynn

Toys and gift cards being collected for: LifeScene Family & Children Services

10 - 11 a.m. | Lyon-Waugh Auto Group | 7 Centennial Drive, Peabody

Toys and gift cards being collected for: Cape Ann Kids Holiday Fund

1 - 2 p.m. | Essex County Co-Op | 146 South Main St., Topsfield

Toys and gift cards being collected for: Tri Town Council

4 - 5 p.m. | China Blossom | 946 Osgood St., North Andover

Toys and gift cards being collected for: Merrimack Valley YMCA

Thursday, Dec. 12:

9 - 10 a.m. | Newburyport Bank | 63 State St., Newburyport

Toys and gift cards being collected for: Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center

▲ Senator Bruce Tarr with Santa at Salisbury's 12th annual SeaFestival of Trees. (Courtesy photo)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Hilton Senior Center | 43 Lafayette Road, Salisbury

Toys and gift cards being collected for: Boys & Girls Club of Lower Merrimack Valley

3 - 4 p.m. | Woodman's of Essex | 119 Main St., Essex

Toys and gift cards being collected for: Cape Ann Kids Holiday Fund

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Cape Ann Savings Bank | 109 Main St., Gloucester

Toys and gift cards being collected for: Cape Ann Kids Holiday Fund

An adult book in a YA wrapper

Book Stew host Eileen MacDougall welcomes Edgar Award nominee Sarah Lariviere and her novel "Riot Act" in the December episode.

The story takes place in a dystopian future, an alternative 1991, where a huckster salesman named Bud Hill becomes President-For-Life. All creative activities are banned and 1984-ish surveillance rules all.

But a defiant group of high school theatre kids and their bold teacher work feverishly on their performance of Henry VI Part 1, a rarely performed Shakespeare play with strong female leads, including Joan of Arc. When they fight authority, who wins?

Check out this new Book Stew episode on WCTV on

Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturdays at noon. Or click on the links and enjoy!

YouTube link:
https://tinyurl.com/bookstew132-yt

SoundCloud podcast link:
https://tinyurl.com/bookstew132-sc

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OBITUARIES

Gail S. (Irwin) Holloway

Helped bring youth field hockey back to town

Gail S. (Irwin) Holloway, age 68, of Wilmington, passed away at home early Saturday morning, Nov. 30, after a long battle with cancer.

Gail was the devoted wife of John (Jack) Holloway for more than 50 years.

Gail came into the world on April 4, 1956, in Winchester; she was one of seven children born to the late William and Dorothy (Weatherbee) Irwin.

Growing up in the "close knit" Glendale Circle neighborhood was perfect for this family of nine as there were so many friends that were like family. Games and gatherings on the street every day creating a lifetime of memories.

Summers were spent on Lake Winnipesaukee at first camping in Arcadia and then at the family cottage on Castle Shore Road. Her passion was waterskiing and hanging out on the boat.

A long-time resident of Wilmington, Gail met the "love of her life" Jack Holloway in 5th grade. Jack and Gail were high school sweethearts who married soon after graduating with the Class of 1974 from Wilmington High School.

They moved into an apartment in Lawrence and soon began a family together welcoming their first born, Janel and figuring out how to navigate life as young parents. As the family grew, Gail and Jack moved to Billerica where they welcomed Jacqui, Billy, and Katie.

Their Billerica neighborhood was full of young families and everyone would gather for cookouts and kids would be running and playing everywhere. In 1986, an opportunity presented itself to build their dream home and return to Wilmington where they would continue to raise their family with the same great memories they had.

Gail was a very devoted mom who was active in the schools and the kids' lives. She was instrumental in helping build Kids Place at Shawsheen Elementary School and a few years later she helped bring youth field hockey back to the town.

Gail coached her daughter Katie as well as many other young girls, teaching them the sport, mentoring them, and hoping they would have as much passion for the sport as she did while playing for the Wilmington Wildcats field hockey team during her own high school years.

Gail loved watching her children and grandchildren play sports throughout the years; she was on the sideline for countless games and was undoubtedly their biggest fan.

Gail loved her garden and entertaining in her back yard. Her door was always open and her home was always a place people could come at any time day or night. She was known as the "cool mom" to her kids' friends. There would always be food, games and laughter. Her greatest joy was watching the grandkids all together playing in the pool and running around.

Gail is survived by her beloved husband John Holloway. Loving mother to Janel Smith and husband Mordecai, Jacqueline Bento and husband Daniel, William Holloway, and Katie Holloway.

Loving Nana/Nanni of Brooklyn Holloway, Braden Smith, Jack McLaughlin, Nadia Smith, Will Holloway, Hunter Holloway, and Leo Bento.

Dear sister of Gary and Mary Irwin, David and Patty Irwin, Bill and Jay Irwin, Sally and Steve Peabody, Barbie and Mark Casey, and Rob and Laurie Irwin.

Loving sister-in-law of Steve and Terri Holloway, Cindy Calligandes, and Mark Holloway and Robin.

Gail is further survived by many nieces, nephews, friends, and family including her valued friendship with Cindy Meehan who would always come over for Dunkins coffee just to talk about all that was going on in the town.

She is predeceased by her in-laws Jack and Mary Holloway, and Scott Holloway

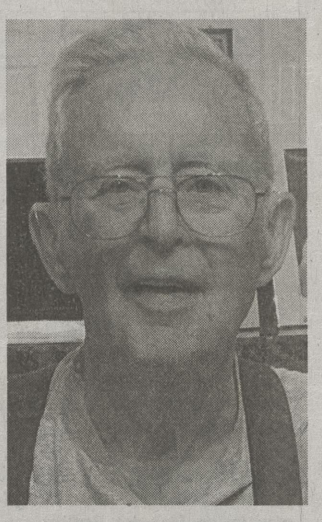
Family and friends will gather for a Funeral Service at the Nichols Funeal Home, 187 Middlesex Ave. (Rt. 62) Wilmington, on Monday, Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. followed by interment at Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington. Visiting Hours will be held at the Funeral Home on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 3 - 6 p.m.

Donations in Gail's memory may be made to Mass General Brigham Checks can be mailed to Massachusetts General Hospital c/o Development Office, Attn: Lauren Dello Russo, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114.

To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit our website at *www.nicholsfuneralhome.com*

John V. 'Matty' Matthews Jr.

Served in the US Army for four years



John V. "Matty" Matthews Jr. of Palm Bay, Florida died after a brief illness on Nov. 26, 2024 at the age of 85.

John was born in Boston on March 8, 1939, the son of John V. Sr. and Lillian (Strong) Matthews.

He was raised in Woburn and graduated with the Class of 1959.

After serving his country honorably in the US Army for four years, he studied air conditioning and worked in the HVAC field until his retirement.

He met his devoted wife Mary E. (Ames) Matthews, through a mutual friend and they later made their home in Tewksbury where they raised three children before they moved to Palm Bay, Florida in 1999.

John started his own business as the owner/operator of A&M HVAC in Massachusetts. Many Maureen Drive kids, nephews and his own children worked for him. If his children didn't have a job or an interview to go to, they went to work with dad for the day.

Prior to retiring, he worked for Climatic Refrigeration & Air Conditioning of Melbourne for 10 years.

A passionate sports fan, John especially enjoyed his beloved New England Patriots whom he followed since they began in 1960. He was also an avid sports car racing fan. He loved watching many sports including tennis and bowling... if it was on, he watched it, except for golf.

He was a well-respected member of Sandy Pines Preserve HOA, having served as a past president and board member for many years.

John is survived by his devoted wife of 54 years, Mary E. (Ames) Matthews; his loving children, eldest daughter Lori Hughes and husband Jeff of New Hampshire, Lisa Montgomery of Massachusetts, and John V. Matthews, III and wife Angela of Georgia and his sister Nancy Matthews of Massachusetts.

He was a proud grandfather to Evan and Ally Montgomery and Ella Matthews.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Charles Matthews in 2007.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024 with visitation from 10 - 11 a.m., followed by a service at 11 a.m. at Brownlie Maxwell Funeral Home, 1010 E. Palmetto Avenue, Melbourne, Florida.

Share memories: *brownliemaxwell.com*

Joan (Cunningham) O'Hearn

Avid painter of landscapes

Joan (Cunningham) O'Hearn, age 86, a longtime resident of Wilmington, passed away on Nov. 29, 2024.

Born at home on April 14, 1938, in Braintree; she was the cherished daughter of the late Charles J. and Mary (O'Leary) Cunningham and the youngest of three.

She was recently predeceased by her brother, Richard (Dick) Cunningham earlier this year and her sister Barbara Travers in 2021.

A graduate of Archbishop Williams High School and Boston University, Joan had a short nursing career at New England Medical Center where she met her husband, the late Arthur (Tom) O'Hearn before raising a blended family of eight children in Medford and later in Wilmington.

Joan was a very supportive mom, spending many, many hours at various hockey rinks, gyms and school functions.

She was an avid painter of landscapes and was very fortunate to be able to travel later in life with her sister, Barbara, throughout Europe and North America.

She was also an active patron of the Wilmington Library, where she enjoyed romance and mystery novels.

Joan leaves behind her four step-children: Mary Lou Wilkins and her husband Jack of Lakeland, FL, Susan Scurini and her late husband Dom of Hudson, Anne Kneeland and her husband Eddie of Malden, Paul O'Hearn and his wife Anne of Plymouth; and four children: Francis O'Hearn and his wife Kathleen of Bethesda, MD, Christine Morrison and her husband Wayne of Groton, Stephen O'Hearn and his wife Darlene of Colorado Springs, CO, and Kevin O'Hearn and his wife Colleen of Wilmington.

She was also grandma to an ever growing number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Family and friends will gather for Visitation at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave., (Rt. 62), Wilmington, on Friday, Dec. 6 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. immediately followed by a Funeral Home Service at 11:30 a.m. Interment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Randolph.

www.nicholsfuneralhome.

Kathleen 'Kathy' (Golden) Major

Registered nurse at Winchester Hospital

Kathleen "Kathy" (Golden) Major, age 79, of Norwalk, CT, formerly of Wilmington, passed away on Monday, Nov. 26, 2024.

Kathleen was born on Oct. 7, 1945 in South Bend, IN to Barbara and Kenneth Golden.

Kathleen is survived by Peter, her husband of 54 years. She also leaves behind her brother Steven Golden and his wife Jum. Kathy will also be missed by her son David, his wife Jamie, and her grandchildren Ava and Ella.

Kathleen graduated from New England Baptist Hospital Nursing School and was a practicing Registered Nurse at Winchester Hospital, specializing in pediatric nursing for over 45 years.

Kathy was a very active member of the Wilmington United Methodist Church. She enjoyed making a joyful noise by singing in the church choir for many years. Kathleen was a member of the Women's group in the church where she participated in numerous church fairs and trips.

Her friends enjoyed her because of her cheerfulness. She was always laughing or smiling. One of her many joys were her granddaughters Ava and Ella and Kathy was in her glory when she was with them.

Throughout her life she was comforted by her beloved dogs including Friskie, Bugle, Leia and Meghan.

Family and friends will gather for Visitation at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave., (Rt. 62), Wilmington on Friday, Dec. 6 from 3 - 7 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held at the Wilmington United Methodist Church, 87 Church St., (Rt. 62), Wilmington on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 11:30 a.m. Interment will follow in Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in Kathleen's name at *alz.org*.

nicholsfuneralhome.com

Healey-Driscoll Admin. awards substance use treatment grants for incarcerated individuals

BRAINTREE — The Healey Driscoll Administration announced that 10 Massachusetts Sheriff's Offices will receive grant funds to deliver substance use disorder treatment programs for incarcerated individuals.

The funds were awarded through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program. The federal program is funded by the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and managed in Massachusetts by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR). Ten Sheriff's Offices will receive a combined total of $310,000 in federal funds to support residential and jail-based treatment programs. Each of the grant recipients applied for funding through a competitive application process in 2023 and were eligible to receive continuation funding this year.

"Substance use disorder can profoundly impact the lives of those who experience it, as well as their families and communities," said Governor Maura Healey. "These funds will help ensure that incarcerated individuals have access to essential services that will help them return to their communities healthier, stronger and better equipped to sustain a positive future."

"Incarceration alone does not address the factors the lead individuals to offend. By funding treatment for incarcerated individuals, we're helping address one of the underlying issues that contributes to justice-system involvement," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This approach empowers individuals to improve their future while strengthening the safety of communities across Massachusetts."

"Reducing recidivism is a key element of our public safety strategy. These grants allow us to invest in programs that improve reentry outcomes and reduce the likelihood that a person will reoffend in the future," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy.

"These grants have the potential to improve the lives of those struggling with substance use disorder as well as the safety of Massachusetts communities. This is one of several programs we offer to help reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for individuals and communities," said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton.

Award Recipient	Award Amount
Barnstable County Sheriff's Office	$30,000
Berkshire County Sheriff's Office	$35,000
Bristol County Sheriff's Office	$30,000
Essex County Sheriff's Office	$30,000
Hampshire County Sheriff's Office	$35,000
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office	$30,000
Norfolk County Sheriff's Office	$30,000
Worcester County Sheriff's Office	$30,000
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	$30,000
Plymouth County Sheriff's Office	$30,000
TOTAL	**$310,000**

IRCC presents 'An American Holiday'

NORTH READING — Please join the Ipswich River Community Chorus as they celebrate an Americana Holiday!

The Ipswich River Community Chorus, led by Music Director Katherine B. Foley, proudly presents their 2024 holiday concert at the Union Congregational Church, 148 Haverhill St., North Reading.

'An Americana Holiday' will be performed on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. Over 80 singers will perform pieces that celebrate the unique musical traditions from different — and distinctly American — regions and cultures, from Appalachian carols to spirituals and classy holiday favorites.

The chorus will be accompanied by pianist Miles Goldberg and a number of local musicians. Festive selections include 'Children Go Where I Send Thee,' 'Jingle Bells' (Streisand-style), 'White Christmas,' 'The Christmas Song,' 'Mary, Did you Know?' (Pentatonix version), 'Go Tell it on the Mountain,' 'I Wonder as I Wander' and many more!

IRCC, formerly known as the North Reading Community Chorale, is a nonprofit organization based in North Reading.

Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for ages 6-18 and children 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased online through TicketLeap, *ipswich-river-community-chorus.ticketleap.com* or from *ipswichrivercommunitychorus.org*.

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• Landscaping and Snow Removal Included
• Private Parking Lot
VISIT NORTHEASTERNDEVELOPMENT.COM/RENTALS FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE

All published legal notices are posted to the Massachusetts Public Notices website.
To search the archive of previously published legal notices go to:
www.homenewshere.com OR masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT

MIDDLESEX, SS. PROBATE & FAMILY COURT DOCKET NO. MI24E0089PP

To: Deanna Guglietta (n/k/a Deanna Smith) of Barre, MA, Peter Guglietta of Tewksbury MA and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by **Deanna Guglietta (n/k/a Deanna Smith)** representing that they hold as tenant in common in an undivided part or share of certain land lying in Tewksbury, in the County of Middlesex, and briefly described as

135 Jennies Way, Tewksbury, Massachusetts 01876

The land with the buildings thereon, located in Tewksbury, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot 16 on Jennie's Way, Tewksbury, as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Lot Layout Plan, "Jennie's Woods", Tewksbury, Massachusetts, Scale 1" = 100', date: April 25, 1997, Dana F. Perkins, Inc.", which plan is recorded in Middlesex North District registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 197, Plan 103, to which plan reference is hereby referred to for a more particular description.

Lot 16 contains 23,019 square feet according to said plan.

Subject to Easement to MediaOne of Southern New England and MediaOne of Mass., Inc. recorded in MNDRD Book 10273, Page 15.

Subject to utility easement to New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. recorded in MNDRD Book 10298, Page 29.

Subject to Protective Covenants recorded in MNDRD Book 10273, Page 225.

Included in this conveyance is the right to pass and repass over any and all ways as shown on said plan for all purposes for which such ways are commonly used in the Town of Tewksbury.

For Grantor's title see deed of First Liberty Development Corporation et ux recorded in MNDRD Book 10561, Page 100.

Setting forth that the petitioner desires that all said land may be ordered to be sold at **a private sale for not less than ($775,000.00) SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS,** and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end, that commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any portion of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided, either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute and pay over the net proceeds thereof in such a manner as to make the partition just and equal.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said Court at Lowell before ten o'clock on the 20th day of December 2024 the return date of this citation.

Witness, Honorable Terri Klug-Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court, this **25th day** of **October** in the year of our Lord **Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.**

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

241165 12/5,12,19/24

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MIDDLESEX DIVISION

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. MI24P6071EA

Estate of: Michael R. O'Hara Date of Death: September 22, 2024

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Teresa Powell** of **Middletown RI**

Teresa Powell of **Middletown RI** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve Without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

241273 12/5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MIDDLESEX DIVISION

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. MI24P5872EA

Estate of: Glenna Frances Sandberg

Date of Death: May 20, 2024

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Keith Sandberg** of **Tewksbury MA**

Keith Sandberg of **Tewksbury MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

241245 12/05/24

TMHS indoor track now open for walking

TEWKSBURY — The TMHS indoor track opened again for walking starting Monday, Dec. 2. Residents are welcome to use the track, located inside the gym at Tewksbury Memorial High School, for walking from 4 - 7 p.m.

The school department is facilitating the walking by providing staffing for the time. Residents can walk Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays on days when school is in session from Dec. 2 through March 27, 2025. The track is not available during school winter vacation week, Dec. 23-Jan. 1. The track will reopen on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025. The track will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and will be closed Feb. vacation week, Feb. 17-21, 2025.

Snow closure days will also mean the track is not available.

Walking has health benefits and the ability to use the indoor track in town is a benefit to residents.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, December 7, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Wilmington High School
Joanne M. Benton Auditorium
159 Church Street

241214 11/21, 12/5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON BOARD OF APPEALS

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Room 9 on Wednesday, DECEMBER 11TH, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. on the following applications:

CASE # 13-24
6 CANAL STREET
MAP 31 PARCEL 7

APPLICANT: CHAD LACROSSE, REPRESENTING JONATHAN & JENNIFER CONTRADA

REQUEST: SPECIAL PERMIT FOR ABOVE GROUND POOL IN THE FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICT 6..2.6

241224 11/21,12/5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

USE SPECIAL PERMIT, SITE PLAN REVIEW, LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **December 16, 2024 at 7:05 PM** in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by **Robert Zwicker on behalf of Richard E. Fortier and Rita G. Fortier** for a Site Plan Review pursuant to Section 3.6 and Special Permit under Section 3.5 of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw, as well as a Land Disturbance Permit pursuant to Chapter 19 of the General Bylaw to convert vacant lot into a landscape supply yard with an office in the existing house as shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at 1628 & 1636 Shawsheen Street, Assessor's Map 113, Lots 2 & 3, zoned Industrial I.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Stephen Johnson, Chairman

241235 11/27, 12/5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

USE SPECIAL PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **December 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM** in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by **821 Main Street LLC** for a Special Permit under Section 3.5 of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw to raze the existing buildings and construct a single family home and two duplex buildings as shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at 821 Main Street, Assessor's Map 48, Lot 15, zoned Village Residential.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Stephen Johnson, Chairman

241230 11/27, 12/5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court 10-U Commerce Way Woburn, MA 01801 (781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI24P6157EA

Estate of: Carla L. Dionne Date of Death: 09/29/2024

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Renee Brothers** of **Meredith NH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Renee Brothers** of **Meredith NH** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/23/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 25, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

241279 12/5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court 10-U Commerce Way Woburn, MA 01801 (781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI24P5946EA

Estate of: Joanna Contrada Also known as: Jenny Contrada, Jennie Contrada Date of Death: 07/10/2016

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by: **Robert Contrada** of **Wilmington MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/12/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date:November 14, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

241242 12/5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

Docket No. SU21P1729GD

In the matter of: Althea Smith Of: Boston, MA

RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Mass. Dept. of Mental Health of Westborough, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Althea Smith** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Spooner Guardianship Services of Auburn, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **1/08/2025.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon.Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date:November 26, 2024

Stephanie Everett,
Register of Probate

241291 12/05/24

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court 10-U Commerce Way Woburn, MA 01801 (781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI24P6192EA

Estate of: William L. Blakeney, Jr. Also known as: William L. Blakeney Date of Death: 10/02/2024

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Eleanor M Blakeney** of **Tewksbury MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Eleanor M Blakeney** of **Tewksbury MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/23/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 25, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

241274 12/5/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **December 19, 2024** at **6:30 P.M.** in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by **Asphalt Services Inc.** for variances under Section 5.3.4 & 5.3.4 A, of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw, for minimum side and rear setbacks and setbacks from an R40 district in order to construct a 6,875 sq ft 3-bay garage with offices as shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at **911 East Street** Assessor's Map 102, Lot 52 zoned Industrial 1.

The application may be examined on the Zoning Board of Appeals webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Nancy Rego, Chair

241248 12/5,12/24

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

Notice is hereby given that the Select Board will conduct a public hearing in accordance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 138, on Tuesday December 17, 2024 at 7:05 p.m. on the application of Brian Akashian on behalf of Speed Motors, Inc. for the transfer of the Class 2 license from Empire Motor Group d/b/a Sena Motors, Inc. located at 2195 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876.

The hearing will be held in the Select Board's meeting room, Main Hall at 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA. Input is welcome from the public. The Select Board recommends that comments be submitted in writing, to the Select Board, Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA, 01876 on or before noon time Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

Patrick Holland, Chair
Select Board

241278 12/5/24

Assessor recommends shifting tax rate 175%

TAX FROM PAGE 1

Assessor's recommendation to shift 175%, so that the residential 74% of properties only will pay 56% of the tax levy. The commercial, industrial, and personal property classification, making up 25% of properties, would therefore pay 43.95% of the tax levy.

"This allows the town to collect an equitable amount of taxes for residential, commercial, and industrial properties," she established.

The board had other options, she went on to explain, for the tax levy shift. If they shifted 0%, the average single family residential tax bill would increase by $2,983 and the average commercial bill would decrease greatly.

A shift of 150% would increase the average residential tax bill by $1,000 and the average commercial bill would decrease by $3,300. Shifting 160% would increase the average residential bill by $773 and increase the average commercial bill by $1,672.

A 170% shift would increase the average residential bill by $415 and the average commercial bill by $6,688. The recommended 175% shift would increase the average residential bill by $232 and the average commercial bill by $9,180.

Rassias also recalled that this is the maximum allowable shift to commercial and industrial, which is traditionally approved by the board. She provided that last year, they voted to have the residential class pay 57% of the tax levy and commercial, industrial, and personal property class to pay 42%. Residents would pay 1.84% less of the tax levy than previously with this proposed shift, which was the lowest amount of the levy proposed since 2014.

According to 2023 assessed values, Rassias shared that the average single-home residential property value had increased by 11.6% in 2023, the commercial value increasing by 9.3%, personal property increasing by an average of 11.6%, and the average industrial property value increasing by 10.27% in town.

Whereas last year the increase in residential property overall averaged 10%, this year it was 2.8%. She explained that the residential class includes all apartments, condominiums, and vacant land in addition to houses. She also clarified that the average increase does not represent all of the properties but instead the middle between the least and greatest increase. They averaged the single-family value in Wilmington to $702,000.

Some of the increases in the industrial class were due to the Tiff agreement with Analog ending which added value in the industrial class and substantial industrial warehouse buildings going up. In personal property, there were three businesses accounting for $20 million increase. The average commercial value last year was $2.9 million compared to $3.2 million this year.

Rassias mentioned that Wilmington scored 33rd from the bottom in terms of residential tax bills in the Middlesex and Essex counties. They typically stayed between 33 and 31.

Frank West thanked Rassias for the presentation.

"We don't like to see the taxes go up," he said.

However, he noted that the proposed increase this year was lower than last year — $232 average increase this year compared to $387 average increase last year.

Kevin Caira asked if she knew of any businesses who would be upset by their tax bills increasing. Rassias answered that Wilmington remained desirable for business owners who knew that the town's property values were solid.

"I think we're competitive with our abutting communities," she continued. "We have the space to build new."

Gary DePalma said that he appreciated the lower increase this year especially considering the proposal for a new pre-k through grade five elementary school.

Chair Greg Bendel noted that the Board of Assessors recommended shifting the maximum burden away from the taxpaying residents and onto the business.

"We're not deciding to raise people's taxes tonight," he clarified.

They voted in line with the Board of Assessors' recommendation for the 175% shift.

Board approves collective bargaining agreement with firefighters association

BOH FROM PAGE 1

The final letter that night came from Comcast Xfinity Senior Manager of Government Affairs Kerry Morris describing rate changes. Slagle provided to the board that the price increases from Xfinity were not small — they were making changes to the format and the pricing of bills and packages. He urged Xfinity subscribers to ensure that they read their bills to see the impact to their future costs.

The board voted in favor of executing the collective bargaining agreement between the town and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1730 for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Slagle mentioned that the Fire Fighters' Union approved the resolution before the vote was taken.

The board also approved a request by the Wilmington Sons & Daughters of Italy to hold their annual Antique and Collectors Car Show at the municipal parking lot on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday Oct. 26, 2025.

They received several requests for appointment for members of the Council for the Arts and voted in favor of appointing both Jennifer Hunt and Darren Boehm.

Anne Murray requested permission to place a Heroes Christmas Tree in town hall for the month of December. Bendel reminded the board that Murray presented to them on several occasions previously.

Slagle added that Murray represented the Blue Star Mothers of New Hampshire who would put gold, black, and blue stars bearing the names of US service members past and present on the Christmas tree.

Bendel also stated that the town's Veterans Services Office was in favor of this request. He thanked Murray for her effort as a mother of a service member and a fire department member. The board approved this request.

In public comment, the first resident who spoke asked the board for their help getting the word out about the upcoming Town Meeting, stating his own opposition to the zoning proposal along with that of the board members.

Kevin MacDonald claimed that the settlement for the Wildwood Street property to be paid by vote at the Dec. 7 Town Meeting was a result of taking by eminent domain and ultimately the town was paying more than double what they originally paid. He also pointed out that none of the board members proposed any alternatives to the proposed zoning for the HLC guidelines to be voted upon and stated his opposition to the proposed new elementary school.

Lastly, he identified that the chair was "replaceable" for his lack of action to propose a new option to comply with the HLC guidelines.

Bendel highlighted under announcements that the Shawsheen Rams were going to the Superbowl on Dec. 6 on WEEI radio and Channel 38.

As a matter of new business, West asked if any additional board members wanted to comment with their opinion on the proposed MBTA overlay district ahead of the Town Meeting. West, Bendel and Maselli all restated their opposition.

The Salute to Service that night honored US Navy Veteran and Wilmington resident Russell Gardner, who served as a radio operator from March 1958 until December 1962, moving to the Navy Reserves until March of 1964, then served in the National Guard until December of 1982, and finally served in the Retired Reserves until December of 2000.

The board's next meeting is scheduled for Monday Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

▲ Mill No. 5, located at 250 Jackson St. in Lowell, recently announced an unexpected permanent closure to take place at the end of January.
(Heather Burns photo)

Petition created to save retail space

MILL FROM PAGE 1

fourth floor as a retail space that will be accessible during weekend hours when it would not interfere with weekday school activities.

To view or sign the petition to save the Mill No. 5 retail space visit *https://www.change.org/p/save-lowell-s-mill-no-5-unique-commercial-spaces?recruiter=1103464875&recruited_by_id=663dbdc0-a515-11ea-8a19-91fd25e5f911&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=psf&utm_medium=copylink&utm_content=cl_sharecopy_490323842_en-US%3A3*

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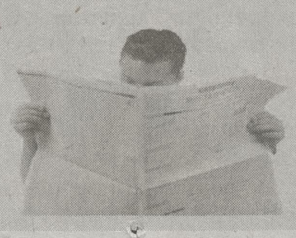

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North Intermediate School site the preferred option for new PreK-5 building

WILMINGTON — On Oct. 8, 2024, the Wildwood School Building Committee (WSBC) selected a site for the new PreK-5 school in Wilmington. The site, known as the North Intermediate School site, is the WSBC's preferred option to enter into the next phase with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

The selected option for the new PreK-5 school will be approximately 163,000 sf housing 755 students plus PreK and it includes a 12,000 square foot gymnasium.

A preferred schematic report has been submitted to the MSBA and the project team will be advancing into the schematic design phase. The WSBC will continue to meet regularly to provide design input and project oversight.

Wilmington's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Glenn Brand, commented on the decision:

"Some of the things I have heard since first joining Wilmington were the many challenges our staff, students and families face in making so many transitions in our small elementary schools on their educational journey. As an educator, I am thrilled that our community and the members of the building committee, have taken the initial steps to address these concerns through the decision to move forward with school consolidation."

"Not only will a new PK-Grade 5 elementary school project take care of these concerns, but immediately bring online a modern educational facility that will bring much needed improvements to the physical conditions for the Wildwood, Woburn Street and North Intermediate school communities."

National Summertime award banner for Cub Scout Pack 136

Cub Scout Pack 136 Webelos Scout M.J. Dorothy helps Cubmaster Frank Palazzi post a National Summertime award banner on their Pack flag at a recent Pack meeting. Cub Scout Pack 136 received this award for conducting scouting activities including a visit to the zoo, mini-golfing, rain-gutter regatta and cookout event, and several other activities during the summer of 2024. If anyone is interested in scouting, please call Karen or Frank West at 978-658-1754. (Courtesy photo)

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Santa Claus is coming to town... this Sunday, Dec. 8

PARADE FROM PAGE 1

place on Sunday, Dec. 8 starting at the police station and end by 3 p.m. The route would consist of 50 miles total. In addition to members of the police and fire departments and DPW, they also had volunteers from some local tow companies planning to help make the event happen.

As they go, they'll collect food pantry donations, letters for veterans and service members to be given to the Veterans' Services Department, and donations of toys for Wilmington children.

"The amount of people that donate throughout the year is amazing," Furbush said.

He also mentioned that they do briefly cut through Woburn and see Woburn residents. This year they would select a family to stop for whose children have special or elevated needs, and enrollment for this was currently open. He invited anyone to reach out via Facebook or to call Furbush at the station if they knew of a family in need of this accommodation.

They would also invite children with sensory issues to a silent run at town hall where they turn off the sirens and music so that these children can still enjoy the parade.

"Our goal is to accommodate everybody," Furbush continued.

He promised they would move forward that day rain or shine, as long as there isn't too much snow. They would also post the route ahead of time and keep the Facebook page updated as much as possible through GPS.

Chair Greg Bendel commented that this is one of the best traditions in town.

"We're so grateful to have a police department who goes above and beyond," he added.

He appreciated the compassion of the police department.

Lilia Maselli added that the town is fortunate to have the police department who has a great relationship with residents.

Kevin Caira thanked Furbush and Desmond for what the department does for safety and security every day.

Frank West said that any interaction between the community and the police is a good thing. The board then voted to approve their request to hold the parade.

Karen West joined a US Marine Corps staff sergeant to present on the Toys for Tots program for 2024. The staff sergeant shared that he is the Assistant Toys for Tots Coordinator for Essex and Middlesex counties. He mentioned that he has experience as a child in need, and he learned that the program was all about the kids.

He also shared that the program collected 700 million toys in all, with 56,000 from these two counties alone last year.

"Nobody has to give, but you all choose to for a reason," he continued.

He thanked the board for their part in keeping the Toys for Tots program running and presented them with a token of recognition from the US Marine Corps Reserves.

Karen West shared that she and her husband Frank had been supporting Toys for Tots in Wilmington for 28 years. They set donation collection boxes at Market Basket, the town hall, Reading Bank, Hyundai, Wilmington Dance Academy, Citizen's Bank, Esposito Carpet, and more.

She also invited anyone in need of toy donations to follow the instructions found at *toysfortots.org*.

"It's not just about collecting toys; it's about getting them to the families that actually need them," she said.

Bendel thanked West and the staff sergeant for their effort. Gary DePalma noted both of their passion for the program.

Maselli said, "As we're buying [gifts], I pause and think, 'if I can buy for my family, I can buy something for a child in need.'"

Frank West established that it all happens through the generosity of the community, and the Marines make sure that the children receive the presents.

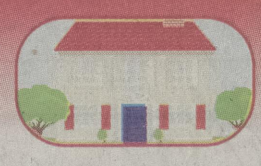
Caira thanked the Marines for protecting the country and helping the children of the world. He asked when the deadline is for toy donations. Karen West answered that they would close out the boxes on Dec. 13, but they could pick up any donations if necessary, and Frank West added that they would leave a few boxes out until Dec. 20.

Karen West presented each board member with a Toys for Tots coin.

Movie Review: 'Maria' Page B2

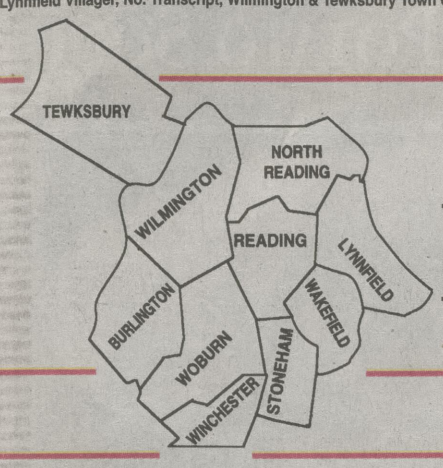
Recipe: Creamy Potato Soup Page B2

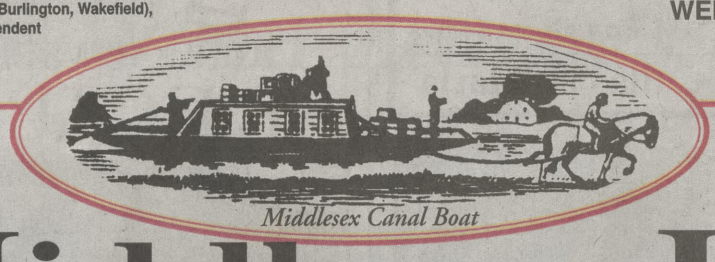
Real Estate Transfers Page B3



MIDDLESEX EAST appearing in Daily Times – Chronicle (Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, Wakefield), Lynnfield Villager, No. Transcript, Wilmington & Tewksbury Town Crier, Stoneham Independent

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 5, 2024 B1





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As neighboring communities eye similar undertakings...

Reading celebrates completion of major wetlands restoration project

By PATRICK BLAIS

With nearly identical initiatives now underway in neighboring communities like Woburn and Stoneham, Reading officials earlier this fall showcased the end result of a major wetlands habitat restoration project that should vastly improve major flooding issues along a branch of the Aberjona River.

In September, town leaders and dignitaries like US Congressman Seth Moulton and Mass. Executive Office for Energy and Environmental Affairs Undersecretary Katherine Antos, converged at an approximate 18-acre nature preserve and recreational area by Austin Preparatory High School and Lowell and Willow Streets to tour the major stormwater storage and conservation area enhancement project.

The beneficiary of some $5 million in investment, nearly 80 percent of which came from state and federal grants, the Town of Reading broke ground on the climate resiliency project at the Maillet, Sommes, and Morgan Conservation area back in the summer of 2023.

Thanks to the improvements, which are expected to entirely eliminate flooding issues that have plagued area residents, various stormwater culverts that connect to the wetlands area where cleaned out and restored, while new flood storage was created by connecting various pools of water together on the site.

The work, which is also expected to reduce the frequency and severity of downstream flooding events in neighboring communities by decreasing the rate of discharge into the nearby Aberjona River during major storm events, also involved efforts to stabilize river bank sections. The Aberjona River, which runs through neighboring Woburn before feeding into the Mystic River that winds all the the way to Boston Harbor, begins as a stream in Reading that flows under Lowell Street right by the Maillet, Sommes and Morgan conservation land.

Reading residents and visitors who frequent the conservation area and a nearby bird sanctuary now have the chance to recreate along a series of new boardwalks that will allow them to explore portions of the 18-acre site that were previously unaccessible.

"Seeing this project develop over the past several years has been truly inspiring," said Reading Town Manager Matt Kraunelis during a ribbon cutting ceremony in mid-September. "By creating this transformative space, we've paired an innovative solution to a pervasive problem in the flooding of the Aberjona River with a beautiful natural area for the residents of Reading to enjoy. I want to extend my deepest thanks to the delegation for their support in securing these funds."

"Stormwater storage and flood mitigation are issues facing many areas of the Commonwealth, and creatively engineered solutions like this one are the way of the future," Moulton also remarked during the special gathering earlier this fall. "I was

• WETLANDS TO B2

A WALK IN THE WOODS - The Maillet, Sommes & Morgan constructed wetlands project at 62 Willow Street is fully complete. Boardwalks, ponds, and interpretive signs have transformed the property into a flood storage zone for the Aberjona River, protecting downstream properties while providing open space and trail access for Reading residents. (Photo by Paige Impink)

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Movie Reviews & Box Office News

Angelina Jolie as opera star Maria Callas in 'Maria'

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA - Angelina Jolie as Maria Callas in a scene from "Maria" released by Netflix. (Pablo Larraín/Netflix via AP)

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Angelina Jolie glides through the final days of Maria Callas' short life in Pablo Larraín's "Maria," a dramatic, evocative elegy to the famed soprano. It's an affair that's at turns melancholy, biting and grandly theatrical, an aria for a once in a generation star.

Reality is of little consequence on the stage and in "Maria." It's all about the raw feeling, which serves the movie well, more dream than history lesson about La Callas. Early on, she pops some Mandrax and tells her devoted butler Ferruccio (a simply wonderful Pierfrancesco Favino) that a television crew is on the way. Are they real, he wonders.

"As of this morning, what is real and what is not real is my business," she says calmly and definitively, making a feast out of Steven Knight's sharp script. It's one of many great lines and moments for Jolie, whose intensity and resolve belie her fragile appearance. And it's a signal to the audience as well: Don't fret about dull facts or that Jolie doesn't really resemble Callas all that much. This is a biopic as opera — an emotional journey fitting of the great diva, full of flair, beauty, betrayal, revelations and sorrow.

In "Maria," we are the companion to a protagonist with an ever-loosening grip on reality, walking with her through Paris, and her life, for one week in September 1977.

The images from cinematographer Ed Lachman, playfully shifting in form and style, take us on a scattershot journey through her triumphs on stage, her scandalous romance with Aristotle Onassis (Haluk Bilginer) and her traumatic youth. In the present, at age 53, she sleeps till midday, drinks the minimal calories she ingests, goes to restaurants where the waiters know her name looking for adulation and has visions of performances staged just for her all around the city.

Callas is always immaculately dressed and assured, whether reflecting to the imagined news crew (led by Kodi Smit-McPhee) or attempting to find her voice again. Her instrument had famously diminished, leaving her wondering what's left to live for. The only consistent praise she gets is from her obedient housemaid Bruna (Alba Rohrwacher). It's no secret that the destination is death. And you suspect that she knows quite well that everything will be a big dimmer when her spotlight is turned off.

Larraín has made a lasting mark on cinema with his unofficial trilogy about these famous women with tragic narratives. With "Jackie,""Spencer" and now "Maria," his films are also an unintentional antidote to Ryan Murphy's stranglehold of the grand dames of recent history, which are all style and scandal and little substance. And yet Larraín's films are not for everyone. If "Jackie" and "Spencer" did not speak to you, did not show those women as you hoped they would, "Maria" will not turn you into a believer. Three movies in, it seems that audiences are either very on board with his vision or not. There is little room for an in between.

And yet it's hard to deny that his films are incredible showcases for actors. Jolie as a movie star is somehow both omnipresent and elusive, and lately she chooses to step in front of the camera all too infrequently. Sometimes you wish she could just follow in Nicole Kidman's footsteps, for whom quantity does not seem to ever jeopardize quality, and she seems to be having fun doing it all, all the time. Perhaps it's because performances like Jolie's in "Maria" look so all-consuming.

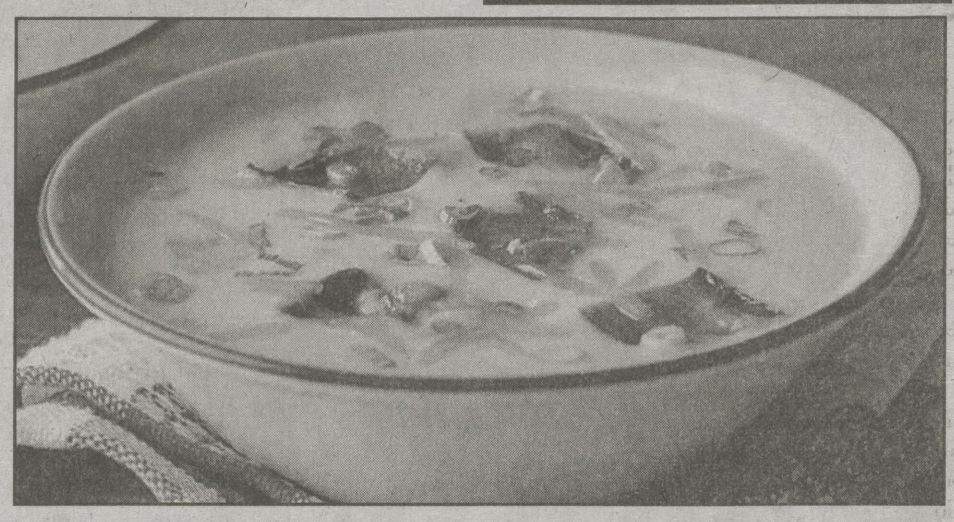
In the film, Maria scolds a fan for daring to question that she faked sickness to miss a performance. He doesn't understand the total commitment of body and soul required to make it look effortless, which is probably true. Jolie is not so dramatic, at least publicly, about what it takes to create art. But here the lines blur: Character and actor blend so seamlessly, so ferociously, that you leave not just with heightened empathy for La Callas but Jolie as well.

In one of the film's few regrettable scenes, she's put face to face with John F. Kennedy (no fault of Caspar Phillipson), whose wife has caught the greedy eye of Onassis. As a testament to the power of Jolie and the script, you almost forgive yet another JFK impersonation for giving her one of the great brushoffs to utter, romantic and withering all at once. Is it all a little much? Of course, but that's kind of the point of Maria.

"Maria," a Netflix release in select theaters now and streaming Dec. 11, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "a sexual reference, some language." Running time: 122 minutes. Three stars out of four.

HomeNewsHere RECIPE

Creamy Potato Soup



EASY DOES IT - If you're looking for the best potato soup recipe around, here's one using just a few simple ingredients.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (12 oz) bacon
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 6 cups Progresso™ chicken broth (from two 32-oz cartons)
- 2 lb baking potatoes, peeled, cubed
- 2/3 cup butter
- 3/4 cup Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
- 4 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup diced cooked ham
- 1 container (8 oz) sour cream
- 2 1/2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese (10 oz)
- 3/4 cup sliced green onions

STEPS

1. In 12-inch skillet, cook bacon over medium heat 6 to 7 minutes or until crisp; drain on paper towels. Crumble bacon; set aside. Reserve 2 tablespoons drippings in skillet. Cook onion in bacon drippings over medium-high heat 6 minutes or until almost tender.

2. In 6-quart Dutch oven, mix onion, broth and potatoes. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Cook 10 minutes or until potatoes are very tender.

3. Meanwhile, in same skillet, melt butter over low heat. Stir in flour with whisk until smooth. Cook and stir 1 minute. Gradually stir in 2 cups of the milk. Pour milk mixture into potato mixture. Add remaining 2 cups milk, the salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly with whisk, until mixture is thickened and bubbly.

4. Stir in ham, half of the bacon, the sour cream, 2 cups of the cheese and 1/2 cup of the green onions. Cook until thoroughly heated and cheese is melted. Evenly top individual servings with remaining bacon, 1/2 cup cheese and 1/4 cup green onions.

STEPS

Think outside of the bowl for serving up soup. Serve in mugs for an extra cozy feel, or hallow out a round loaf of bread to create a bread bowl.

RMLD Reading Municipal Light Department
RELIABLE POWER

LEGAL NOTICE
ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

RFP 2024-35

The Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) invites proposals* for the purchase and/or lease of parcels of land within the RMLD service territory (Reading, North Reading, Wilmington and parts of Lynnfield). The parcel must be at least three (3) acres of non-wetlands. This land will be used for the installation of non-carbon energy generation equipment (such as solar PV) and/or energy storage apparatus and/or electric distribution equipment. *The RMLD will entertain multiple proposals.

The RMLD will receive sealed proposals until **11:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 12, 2025**, at 230 Ash Street, Reading, Massachusetts, 01867. RFPs will then be opened and unless obviously non-responsive, read aloud publicly in the RMLD Spurr/AV room. Proposals received by the RMLD later than the Submission Deadline will be deemed non-responsive and will be rejected.

This RFP is being issued under Massachusetts General Laws, 30B §16.

The RFP packet may be obtained via email request to Paula O'Leary, Materials Manager, at poleary@rmld.com. For questions or further information, please contact Paula O'Leary at 781-942-6440.

The RMLD may cancel this RFP or reject in whole or in part any and all proposals if the RMLD determines that cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of the RMLD, and, it may select the proposal that it deems to be in the best interest of the RMLD. The RMLD shall have no obligation to purchase and/or lease the property, and any subsequent Purchase and Sales Agreement or Lease will become null and void if, by way of example, and not limitation: the RMLD determines at any time prior to closing that the property and/or the improvements thereon are not suitable, for its specific needs; the information contained in the proposal proves to be inaccurate; it becomes unlawful for either party to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement or Lease Agreement or consummate the transaction; the RMLD fails to obtain approval and/or funding by an affirmative vote of the RMLD Board of Commissioners; the RMLD finds undisclosed hazardous waste or hazardous materials on the property; the RMLD fails to comply with the provisions of G.L. c. 30B (the Uniform Procurement Act) for acquisition of real property; the building on the property is damaged or destroyed by fire, vandalism or other casualty, or all or part of the property is taken by eminent domain by any entity; or the RMLD fails to obtain the proper zoning and regulatory approvals to the extent necessary to use and operate the property for the RMLD's intended purposes.

All terms of the proposals submitted in response to this RFP, including the price stated therein, must remain firm for six months (180 days) following the proposal opening.

RMLD will make reasonable efforts to review and process proposals promptly. However, RMLD shall not be liable for any delays in acting on a proposal.

• WETLANDS

FROM B-1

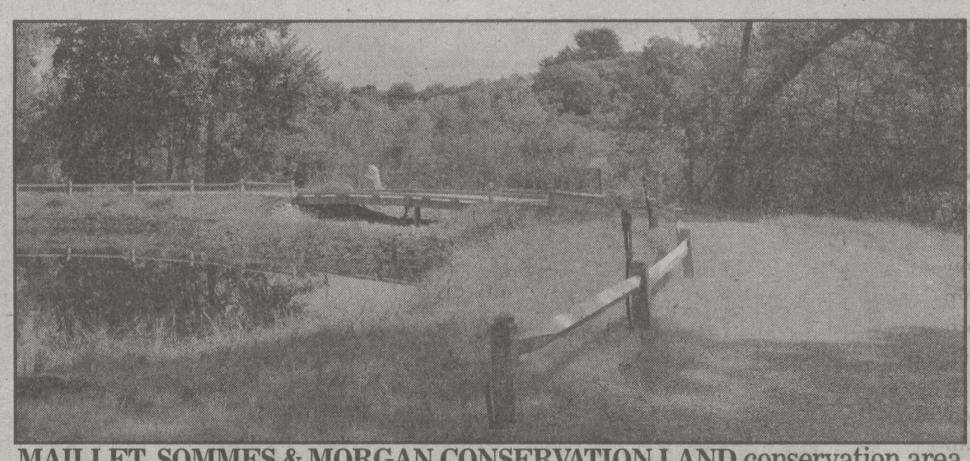
proud to secure $2 million in federal funding to support this new stormwater system. Making this project a reality is a true collaboration between federal and state government, and I'm grateful for the efforts of all involved for bringing such an important environmental and recreational area to Reading."

Back in 2018, representatives from the Mystic River Watershed Association and Resilient Mystic Collaborative - representing some 21 communities that sit upon the larger 76-square mile watershed that dumps into Boston Harbor - began working with officials in Reading, Stoneham, and Woburn to identify ways to improve the natural resource.

During those consultations with town officials, both environmental groups identified Reading as sitting in the heart of a particularly sensitive area where the Mystic River, Aberjona River, and portions of the Saugus and Ipswich River watersheds all come together.

In a subsequent application to the state's Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) grant program for funding, the environmental activists argued that the Maillet, Sommes, and Morgan improvements would prove especially impactful.

Launched back in 2017, the state's MVP program was created to help cities and towns across Massachusetts prepare for a series of potential weather-related catastrophes that could be brought about by climate change in the coming years and decades.



MAILLET, SOMMES & MORGAN CONSERVATION LAND conservation area, which has been several years in the making, is fully complete. It now boasts a fully accessible walking trail system from entrances on Willow Street and Lowell Street with additional access located off Hunt Street. (Courtesy Photo)

Reading was first designated as an MVP community back in 2020 and utilized an initial batch of state funding to flush out initial plans and designs for the proposed stormwater storage and wetlands improvement project.

In 2022, Reading officials learned the state had awarded the community some $2.1 million to advance the program, while Moulton later managed to earmark another $1.5 million towards the initiative.

"Our communities are where climate resilience either happens or doesn't. Years of collective research and planning are turning into on-the-ground projects that will make a real difference in people's lives. These state and federal investments are both a recognition of and essential support for their great work," boasted Mystic River Watershed Association representative Julie Wormser in Aug. of 2022, when Reading was its second round of MVP funding.

Last summer, Mass. Governor Maura Healey announced plans to advance similar wetlands restoration projects in nearby Stoneham, where town officials were awarded some $2.35 million to address flooding issues by the community's high school and the nearby Middlesex Fells Reservation.

Meanwhile, the City of Woburn is also eyeing a similar initiative focused on reducing issues by the community's busy Four Corners area by adding stormwater capacity at the 20-acre Shaker Glen Conservation Area.

Back in the spring of 2023, Woburn's City Council allocated some $235,000 towards the estimated $2 million project, which is expected to reduce flooding problem's on the community's West Side area by Lexington and Cambridge Road and the Burlington line. Two years earlier, city officials took a major step towards making the project a reality by accepting a gift of 12-acres of land by Russell Street that was owned by Woburn's prominent DeMoulas family.

Under the proposed project, a portion of the Shaker Glen Brook that was diverted away from the land back in the 1950s in order to construct a since shuttered bowling alley will be restored. In order to accomplish that feat, the city will demolish the last remnants of the dilapidated attraction, which including the building's foundation and an estimated 40,000 square feet of broken pavement that surrounded the bowling alley.

A 20,000 square foot stormwater treatment system, as well as a new berm to divert rainflows, would also be installed to treat runoff from Russell Street before it enters the brook. Lastly, in an attempt to reduce flooding in and around the Four Corners area, a new 10-foot by six-foot box culvert would be installed to replace an old 60-inch stream culvert in the area.

Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7

Wakefield's annual Winter Artisan Sale to be held at main gallery of Albion Cultural Exchange Building

SAVE THE DATE! The Arts Collaborative of Wakefield is proud to present its Annual Winter Artisan Sale in the main gallery of the Albion Cultural Exchange Building in Wakefield. Get into the spirit of the season and come shop a variety of local and handmade products including artwork of all kinds - ceramics, jewelry, mixed-media, paintings, prints, photography and other hand-crafted items. In addition, we'll be doing our annual support of the Wakefield Food Pantry, so please feel free to bring a donation of canned and dry goods. You will find us at 9 Albion Street, Wakefield, on Friday, Dec 6 from 5pm – 8pm and Saturday, Dec 7 from 11am – 4pm. For more information about the Arts Collaborative of Wakefield, please go to www.artscollaborativeofwakefield.com.

The Arts Collaborative of Wakefield's (ACW) mission is to support Wakefield and local community visual artists and craftsmen by providing opportunities for artists to network, meet and share ideas, display their work, and create partnership programs between local artists and businesses. A key component of the ACW is its online artist registry used by artists, patrons, sponsors, local business, and enthusiasts. The online registry allows artists to identify themselves in terms of their artwork. The registry is also a great tool for non-artists to check out what is happening in the local art community and to find an artist or craftsmen whose style they like or who they want to engage for a piece of artwork. Artists register at www.artscollaborativeofwakefield.com.

Past and recent events sponsored and coordinated by the ACW include:

- Spring Art Exhibit & Sale
- Fall Art Exhibit & Sale
- Holiday Season Artisan's Sale
- Demonstration Nights
- Art Supply Exchange / Sale

The ACW regular monthly meetings are typically the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Albion Cultural Exchange Building (9 Albion St.) at 7pm. Feel free to come join us for a meeting! For contact info and to check out the community's many local artists and their work. ACW Website: www.artscollaborativeofwakefield.com.

• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

1-A Meadowvale Rd was sold to Vogelkop Inc by Gerbrands Gayle Est and Gerbrands, Jillian M for $750,000 on 11/12/24

NORTH READING

3 Southwick Rd was sold to Keegan, Kevin and Hudson-Keegan, Kaitlyn by Gannon, Kevin E and Reilly, Regina M for $760,000 on 11/13/24

READING

489 Summer Ave was sold to Batts, Tesia E and Batts, Stephen by Adam, Daniel and Adam, Vivian T for $925,000 on 11/12/24

STONEHAM

27 Garden Rd was sold to Spring, Brian C and Rubio-Spring, Alicia by Cubi, Angelo and Costa, Hilda Y for $1,351,000 on 11/12/24

235 Green St was sold to Davis, Samantha B by Cogliano, Alexis C and Cogliano, James for $740,000 on 11/12/24

57 Middlesex Rd was sold to Mcmahon, Matt and Amazeen, Lauren by Geronimo, Valerie D for $720,000 on 11/13/24

TEWKSBURY

98 7th St was sold to Brannen, Jennie M by Thomas, Linda A for $495,500 on 11/13/24

23 Oakland Ave was sold to Scouler, Daniel and Scouler, Kayla by Sullivan Ft and Sullivan, Thomas for $550,000 on 11/12/24

WAKEFIELD

3 Richardson St #A4 was sold to Johnston, Raymond L by Johnston, Steven F for $210,000 on 11/12/24

WILMINGTON

46 Boutwell St was sold to Healey Jr, Steven A and Healey, Deanna H by 46 Boutwell Street Rt and Coleman, Sharon L for $575,000 on 11/12/24

12 Veranda Ave was sold to Nelson, Kyle J and Sousa, Kristen E by Pereira, Norma C for $670,000 on 11/12/24

90 West St was sold to Willow Brook Property LLC by Westdale Ave LLC for $12,339,800 on 11/12/24

WINCHESTER

115 Washington St #2D was sold to Ciarcia Ft and Ciarcia, Betsy J by Holden, Margaret L for $595,000 on 11/13/24

49 Wendell St was sold to Zhou, Xiang and Hu, Yan by Gaudet, Allen and Gaudet, Linda for $1,850,000 on 11/12/24

58 Winford Way was sold to 58 Winford Way LLC by Robert F Hofstadter T and Rehkop, Dorothea M for $975,000 on 11/13/24

32 Woodside Rd was sold to Dzelme, Raimonds A by Massuci, Loti and Dzelme, Raimond A for $100,000 on 11/12/24

WOBURN

3 Dragon Court Cir was sold to Singh, Darshan and Singh, Inderpreet by Detomasi, Marie and Detomasi, Danilo for $930,000 on 11/13/24

1 Frederick Dr was sold to Liu, Wenwen by Gentile, Christopher L and Gentile, Kathleen M for $770,000 on 11/12/24

204 Merrimac St was sold to Waste Mgmt Of Ma Inc by Postive Start Realty Inc for $2,365,548 on 11/13/24

122 Place Ln #122 was sold to Cheney, Trevor by 122 Place Lane Rt and Jackson, James H for $544,000 on 11/13/24

43 Samoset Rd was sold to Grey, Sean by 43 Samoset Road LLC for $1,350,000 on 11/13/24

Massachusetts Got Talent: 9 acoustic musical acts

Linden Tree Coffeehouse Winter Potpourri takes place on Saturday, December 7

Have you wondered what the Linden Tree Concert series is all about? For 40 seasons, Linden Tree has presented local, national, and even international traveling performers covering so many music genres such as traditional, gospel, contemporary, bluegrass, and blues.

Our Winter Potpourri will be hosted by Wakefield's Kirsten Manville and will feature a set by last year's top winner Mark Zelemeyer and Friends.

In the holiday spirit our reduced ticket price of $10 minimum will be shared with the Wakefield Food Pantry and encourage newcomers to the Linden Tree. 7 acts will perform two songs each hoping to catch audience votes to win future Linden Tree gigs. Competitors are: James Cooke, Mel Green, Tom Hanlon, Paul Hatem, Jan Luby, Dan Margarita,and Secret Sauce.

KIRSTEN MANVILLE

Kirsten Manville, a Wakefield based singer-songwriter engages audiences with melodic and lyric-focused Americana music, with a touch of blues and country. Her songs have singable lyrics and memorable melodies that capture stories about everyday life, the ups and downs and in-betweens. Her CD "Blossom in the Sun," was a Top 5 pick in the September 2022 issue of Metronome Magazine. "With naturally gifted vocal command, Manville explores the intricacies of love, life, and the finer things with a sharp eye on details. Her lyrics are heartfelt and genuine and delivered with just the right amount of instinct and emotion.

Linden Tree Coffeehouse is located at 326 Main St PO Box 529, Wakefield, MA. You can find more info at www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Join us for live music, an open bar, a seasonal buffet, and fancy desserts. Tour our welcoming community and see how The Residence at Pearl Street celebrate the holidays.

RSVP: Beverly Curry, 781-417-3099
bcurry@residencepearl.com

Thursday, December 12 | 4:00 - 7:00 pm

THE RESIDENCE at Pearl Street
Assisted & Memory Care Living
TAX CREDIT AFFORDABLE HOUSING AVAILABLE

75 Pearl Street, Reading | 781-417-3099 | residencepearl.com

ME Santa Needs You!

Sharing is Caring • All proceeds assist local families

Middlesex East Publications, in association with the Salvation Army will sponsor "M.E. Santa" this holiday season to benefit needy individuals and families in the area. In many past years, the Salvation Army has worked quietly within the communities. But this year it is asking for assistance due to increased pressure to provide services. Funds will be distributed locally in the M.E. communities which include:Wilmington, Tewksbury, No. Reading, Lynnfield, Reading, Stoneham, Burlington, Woburn, Wakefield and Winchester.

A list of contributors will be published in Middlesex East throughout December. Corporations and individuals are encouraged to include their names as part of their donations as efforts are made to promote the fund. The "M.E. Santa" effort is actually part of the Salvation Army's ongoing service program.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

Please accept my donation of
$25 ❑ $50 ❑ $100 ❑ Other _____

Please mail to: "M.E. SANTA" c/o Daily Times Chronicle
36 Commerce Way, Unit 410 • Woburn, MA 01801

THE SALVATION ARMY

DOING THE MOST GOOD
ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

PLEASE HELP!

Donations should be mailed to:
"M.E. SANTA"
c/o Daily Times Chronicle
36 Commerce Way, Unit 410
Woburn, MA 01801

Tewksbury Police Log

Two males arrested in separate incidents on Saturday for operating under the influence

Monday, November 25

1:56 a.m. - Caller reported eight pro shop at Trull Brook Golf Course motion detector. No contact was made. Police sent. They reported smashed front door. The key holder was requested to be contacted to respond for camera footage. Officer filed a report.

6:46 a.m. - White truck drove through a red light near Dunkin'. Police sent, but were gone at arrival.

4:27 p.m. - Caller reported his neighbor's dog got into his yard and jumped on his dog at Foster Road. Caller stated no injuries to his dog and the other dog was back inside the neighbor's house. Neighbors weren't home at this time. Animal control was notified.

Tuesday, November 26

11:30 a.m. - Sign language interpreter calling for a party who reported a male party in a red Toyota pickup truck punched her vehicle in the parking lot at Market Basket south. Caller reported she was parked in a black Acura between Papa Ginos and CVS. Caller reported vehicle was parked at the end of the lot. She was in and male party, white male in his 60s wearing a maroon hoodie, was last seen walking around his vehicle. Police sent. The other vehicle left prior to arrival. Officer filed a report.

12:20 p.m. - Front desk at Motel 6 reported a guest refused to leave. Police sent. The party was gathering his items and left and the front desk did not wish to trespass him.

8:44 p.m. - Caller reported an unwanted party at Tree House Brewing Company. Secondary 911 call open line argued that the suspect could be heard. Officer spoke to the manager. The manager reported the involved party was too intoxicated to drive and she did not want him to operate a motor vehicle. Male party was then picked up by his wife and left his vehicle in the parking lot.

Wednesday, November 27

12:19 p.m. - Police out at High Street for a traffic complaint that occurred on Marshall Street. Citation issued to suspect, failure to stop for school bus stop sign.

3:40 p.m. - A 911 caller stated she could hear someone moving around downstairs at Heritage Drive, sounds like a male. The caller did not know who they were and no one was supposed to come over. Police sent. They watched ring video footage. The wind blew the door open. The voice was the neighbors taking out the trash.

7:18 p.m. - Black truck on the premises occupied by someone with no tag at Atamian Honda. Police sent. Vehicle was noisy on the scene, but they checked the parking lot just in case.

8:17 p.m. - A 911 caller reported her nephew was intoxicated and they would like an officer to speak with him at Motel 6. Police sent. Ambulance transported one to Saints. Officer filed a report.

9:49 p.m. - Wamesit detail officer requested ambulance for intoxicated male party. Ambulance sent, but they cancelled on scene, returning to quarters. Police stated they the party would be taken away by responsible party.

11:16 p.m. - Female party stated ex-boyfriend back at location sleeping requesting removal at Foster Place Apartments. Police sent. The male was being transported to Saints. The emergency order had been granted against the male party.

Thursday, November 28

1:06 a.m. - Police reported an erratic driver on Main Street. Vehicle described as a dark-colored sedan with no lights on. Wilmington Police Department was notified. Tewksbury Police Department was unable to located vehicle after checking from Kyoto to Wilmington line.

12:56 p.m. - Caller requested police assistance in removing an intoxicated male party that refused to leave after check out time at Motel 6. Police sent. Officer filed a report. Ambulance transported one person to Saints.

Friday, November 29

5:19 a.m. - Caller nearby was upset by trucks delivering supplies to Mexica Burrito Grill and believed they were breaking town noise laws. Caller did not want to speak to an officer at this time. Police sent. Caller calked back at 11:30 a.m. and wanted to know the outcome of the complaint. She believed it was a violation of the town bylaw and wanted to have that reflected in the log. She will notify the town manager and escalate the issue further if nothing was done.

6:27 a.m. - Front desk worker reported he had a description and camera footage of the male party who pulled the fire alarm at Motel 6. Police sent. The female party was no trespassed from the Motel 6. Officer filed a report.

12:42 p.m. - Caller reported she believed there were a few people in her vehicle and were just sitting there looking at her at Pine Street. Police sent. They spoke to the caller. The vehicle was not occupied, locked and secured, and there were no issues at this time.

1:20 p.m. - A 911 caller reported there were some landscapers on the property that weren't supposed to be there at Donovan Way. Caller asked them to leave and one of them got up in his face. Police sent. It was a disagreement between the homeowner and worker about which day the clean up would be done.

Saturday, November 30

2:52 a.m. - A 911 caller reported a black male came into her room and left when she asked him at Emerald Court, but believed he may still be in the hallway. Police sent. They reported they spoke to the caller and involved male. Miscommunication to whose maid alarm was set off.

9:48 a.m. - Caller reported a black SUV parked at Lowe Street and Shawsheen Street for three days. Caller found this suspicious. Police sent. They reported the vehicle was not parked there yesterday. The vehicle was off the roadway and it was not a hazard.

11:53 a.m. - 911 caller stated male party intoxicated at Andover Street. White male, black sweater, he claimed they stole his wallet. Police sent. Thomas Shanley, 52, of 62 Evergreen Road in Lowell, was arrested and charged with third offense of OUI liquor.

12:42 p.m. - A 911 caller stated a motor vehicle was driving erratic at Mobil Tewksbury. Police sent. Jovannie Cineas, 34, of 516 Andover St. in Lawrence, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor and negligent operation of motor vehicle.

Sunday, December 1

1:13 a.m. - Call for a suspicious dark sedan possibly a Tesla at River Road parked at the off edge of the driveway with its lights on. Police sent. Everything checked out.

9:22 a.m. - A 911 caller stated he went to pick up his vehicle from Town Fair this morning. The vehicle was not there when they arrived. Henry Rubiera Cruz, 26, of 23 Durant St. in Lawrence, was arrested and charged with receive stolen property less than $1,200, possess class B drugs, larceny of motor vehicle, breaking and entering vehicle/boat nighttime for felony, and receive stolen motor vehicle.

Wilmington Police Log

Local resident arrested for alleged shoplifting incident

Friday, Nov. 22:

1:18 a.m.: A white 2020 Honda Accord was involved in a motor vehicle accident prior to exit 31 on the I-93 SB highway. Airbags were deployed, but the driver wasn't injured, and state police would handle the situation.

3:56 a.m.: A caller at the Burger King on Lowell Street reported that staff were not giving him his order, and were possibly stealing his money. The customer was given a refund and went on his way.

12:58 p.m.: A gray 2022 Audi Q5 and a black 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Main Street.

Saturday, Nov. 23:

11:11 a.m.: A gray 2012 Ford Explorer, a blue 2023 Ford Escape, and a white 2016 Audi A6 were involved in a motor vehicle accident in a parking lot on Middlesex Avenue.

6:37 p.m.: A gray 2020 Jeep Wrangler hit a deer near the I-93 NB Rt. 35 Ramp. The driver was not injured and the car sustained minimal damage, but the deer was unable to be found.

Sunday, Nov. 24:

1:29 a.m.: A caller at the Cumberland Farms gas station on Main Street reported that there was a woman in the store who appeared to be in distress, believing that she was lost. Soon after, Billerica police stated they believed she was the subject of a well-being check, since she hadn't yet arrived home from a birthday party in Woburn. The woman made her way home safely.

11:33 a.m.: A caller at the Target on Ballardvale Street reported that the driver of the car next to his opened their door into his car, damaging it, and left without providing information. Police got a hold of the driver, whereafter she returned to the scene and exchanged insurance paperwork.

2:27 p.m.: Melissa A Standley of 174 Marblehead St., in North Reading, was issued a summons for larceny under $1,200. This followed a call from loss prevention at the Target on Ballardvale Street, reporting that a shoplifter was about to leave in a white Hyundai.

Monday, Nov. 25:

9:37 a.m.: Gerald Michael Joseph D'Alelio of 8 Heather Dr., in Wilmington, was arrested for shoplifting by asportation and assault. This followed a call from a manager at the Market Basket on Main Street reporting they had a shoplifter detained.

9:37 a.m.: A white 2014 Toyota Prius and a blue 2020 Subaru Crosstrek were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Lowell Street, causing a rollover. No injuries were reported.

12:23 p.m.: Denilson Elias Lauriano of 18 Bellevue St., in Lowell, was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and failure to stop/yield. This followed a stop of his red 2010 Volkswagen Jetta on Chestnut Street.

Tuesday, Nov. 26:

3:09 a.m.: Jorge Luis Leonardo Sanchez of 56 Jackson St., in Haverhill, was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. This followed police spotting a car near the train tracks, and a person who appeared to have thrown something onto the tracks and began heading down Jewel Drive.

10:12 a.m.: A caller located in Colorado reported a sister of a client left threatening voicemails, stating she would come in and shoot them all, with the voicemails having been received the Thursday before. The caller also stated that the manager on duty at the time would have recordings of the voicemails.

5:18 p.m.: A white 2017 Chevy Express and a blue 1992 Plymouth Grand Voyager were involved in a motor vehicle accident near the 99 Restaurant on Lowell Street. Airbags were deployed, and the road was temporarily closed.

Tewksbury police partner with KultureCity to promote inclusivity

TEWKSBURY — Police Chief Ryan Columbus is pleased to announce that the Tewksbury Police Department, as part of an effort to promote inclusivity and accessibility for individuals with sensory needs, has trained every Tewksbury police officer in sensory inclusion in partnership with KultureCity.

Sensory sensitivities or challenges with sensory regulation are often experienced by individuals with autism, dementia, PTSD and other similar conditions; age is no factor. Individuals might become overwhelmed from the crowds, lights, sounds, smells, or other external stimuli during an emergency.

KultureCity's Sensory Inclusive program provides training and resources to staff, enabling them to better accommodate individuals with sensory sensitivities.

Tewksbury Police partnered with KultureCity to serve all community members. Tewksbury Police were trained by leading medical and neurodivergent professionals on how to recognize community members with sensory needs and how to handle a sensory overload situation.

Sensory bags, equipped with noise canceling headphones, fidget tools, and verbal cue cards will also be available to all community members who may feel overwhelmed by the environment or an emergency situation.

▲ Tewksbury Police Chief Ryan Columbus holds a sensory bag, equipped with noise canceling headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads to assist individuals with community members who have sensory sensitivities. Tewksbury Police have partnered with KultureCity to train all police officers in sensory inclusion.

(Courtesy Tewksbury Police Department)

Individuals can download the free KultureCity App where one can view what sensory features are available and where they can access them. Also, on the app is the Social Story which will provide a preview of what to expect while enjoying an event at the Tewksbury Police Department.

"I'm extremely proud of our department for achieving this new certification, which means the Tewksbury Police Department is now better prepared to assist individuals with sensory sensitivities in having the most comfortable and accommodating experience possible," said Chief Columbus. "I encourage any community members who are interested to download our KultureCity app and check out our social page."

"Empowering communities through inclusion and innovation, Tewksbury Police are aligned with the same visionary spirit as KultureCity and are championing a world where every individual, regardless of ability, is not just accepted but celebrated for their unique contributions to the tapestry of humanity," said Uma Srivastava, Executive Director of Kulture City.

About KultureCity

KultureCity, established in 2014, is a non-profit devoted to creating a more accessible and accepting world for individuals with sensory needs and invisible disabilities.

KultureCity has certified more than 1,800 venues as sensory inclusive, handed out almost 1 million sensory bags to individuals in need, made over 150 live events sensory inclusive, and saved 48 lives through the KultureCity First Responder Training.

The organization actively collaborates with influential figures, businesses, and communities to promote awareness and understanding of invisible disabilities. Kulture City partners with event industry leaders like NFL, NBA, MLB and FIFA to make their flagship events sensory inclusive.

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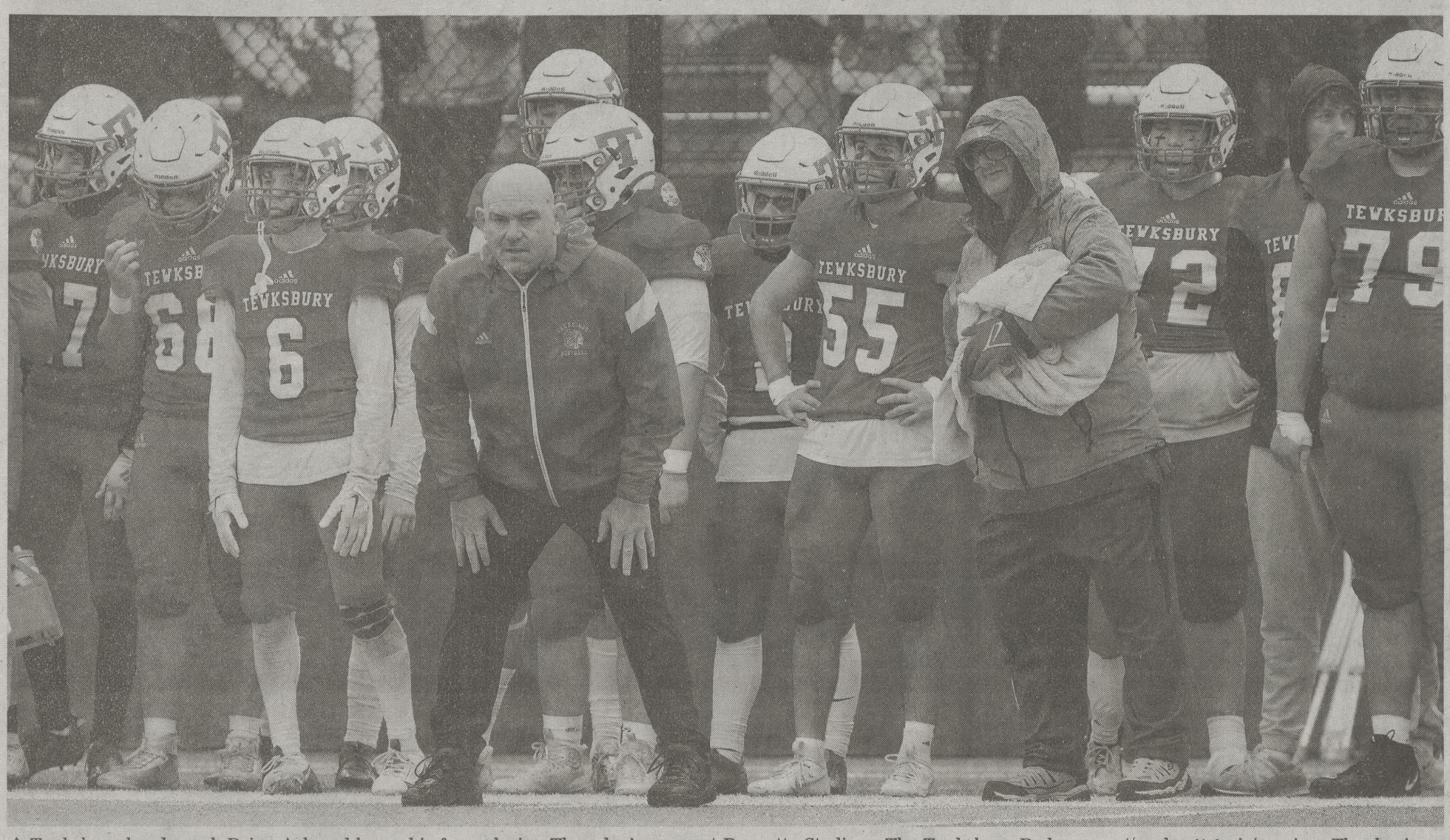
SPORTS

Thursday, December 5, 2024



▲ Tewksbury head coach Brian Aylward keeps his focus during Thursday's game at Doucette Stadium. The Tewksbury Redmen captured a 41-0 victory in a Thanksgiving clash of long time rivals. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

Tewksbury cruises to Thanksgiving triumph

Wilmington's future looks bright despite lopsided defeat

By JASON COOKE
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

TEWKSBURY — Another Thanksgiving day, another Tewksbury victory.

In the 90th edition of the historic Turkey Day clash between Tewksbury and Wilmington, the Redmen earned their 14th consecutive win in another dominant performance last Thursday in a 41-0 romp.

Manny Mengata (six carries, 71 yards, two touchdowns) headlined a dynamic Tewksbury attack that included rushing scores from Vincent Ciancio, Emeka Olu, Ben Christopher, and Jason Lavoie to improve Tewksbury's all-time record on Thanksgiving to 55-27-8.

However, the score isn't exactly indicative of the visitor's effort at Doucette Stadium.

The 'Cats put their best foot forward at their longtime rivals, throwing a scare toward Tewksbury's way in the first half before the hosts eventually found their groove.

"It's about the kids who are willing to step up and fight for their town. Those kids deserve an awful lot of credit," Tewksbury coach Brian Aylward said of Wilmington. "They're the ones who step up for their town and wear their town on their chest, and I just wanted to tell them that I appreciate that. They fought hard out there today."

Wilmington's season (2-10) was much different than that of Tewksbury's (9-3), but the Thanksgiving tradition is bigger than records or accolades. Both coaches shared their appreciation with the opposition before Tewksbury was presented with the Thanksgiving Day trophy.

"It's important," said Wilmington coach Craig Turner. "It's important to them and it's important to us. It means a lot to both communities. What he said to our kids, I couldn't echo anymore. I feel the exact same way."

Mengata's three-yard touchdown run with 9:03 remaining in the first quarter did have the Redmen holding a 7-0 lead after the matchup's first drive, but Wilmington proceeded to hold its own.

Sophomore quarterback Mark Holleran (7-for-17, 66 passing yards) and the 'Cats punted on the ensuing drive, but their stingy and persistent defense gave Tewksbury problems in the opening half.

In Tewksbury's subsequent stanza, the Wildcats forced Tewksbury to turn the ball over on downs, ignited by a sack from Luke DeProfio that hit the Redmen for a 28-yard loss.

The Wilmington offense then began to prove why Turner is excited about a strong nucleus of returning players for next fall. Pasquale DeLucia (three receptions, 39 yards) hauled in a 10-yard pass from Holleran amid a drive that leaked into the second quarter. However, the Tewksbury defense stood strong to halt the 'Cats on a fourth-down attempt. Joe Barletta tipped a pass from Holleran to set up the fourth-and-long.

"He's only going to get better," said Turner of Holleran. "He's got a lot of talent, and in his second year of varsity football, everything is going to slow down for him. We've got high expectations for him, and he puts in a lot of work."

With 4:16 left in the half, Ciancio doubled the Tewksbury lead to 14-0 as Jackson Feudo booted his second extra point of the morning. Ciancio turned on the jets, barreling his way through a flurry of defenders before crossing over the goal line in what was a 26-yard touchdown run.

Nicky Desisto intercepted Holleran on the following possession. This time, however, Tewksbury failed to churn defense into offense. Kyle Gabaree sacked Ciancio, ultimately forcing a fumble that Kenny Branley was all over.

Offensively, the Wildcats were paced by Gus Lambert, who carried the ball 16 times for 73 yards.

"Gus had a great season," said Turner. "He really came on the last couple of weeks in the last month or so. I'm proud of him, and he's got a big year coming up next year."

Still, like Tewksbury, the 'Cats had trouble building on their defensive breakthrough. Barletta sacked Holleran to force another Wildcat punt. Christopher then broke free for a 14-yard run to provide Tewksbury with a 21-0 lead at the break.

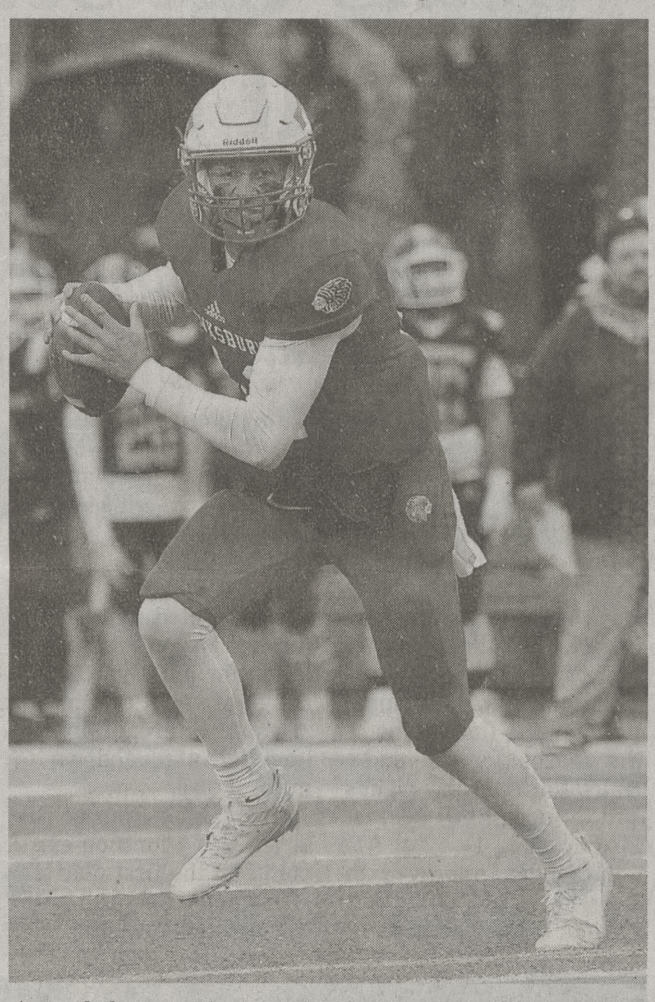
From there, it was all Tewksbury. Lavoie's impressive day originated on defense, intercepting Holleran on Wilmington's opening drive of the half before Mengata increased the Tewksbury cushion to 27-0.

Lincoln Crane joined in on the defensive party, landing Tewksbury's third interception of the contest that led to a 76-yard touchdown run from Olu (six carries, 138 yards) before Lavoie's score late in the fourth put the exclamation point on the Tewksbury triumph.

Above all, both coaches commended the efforts of their respective senior classes, who suited up for their final high school game on Thursday.

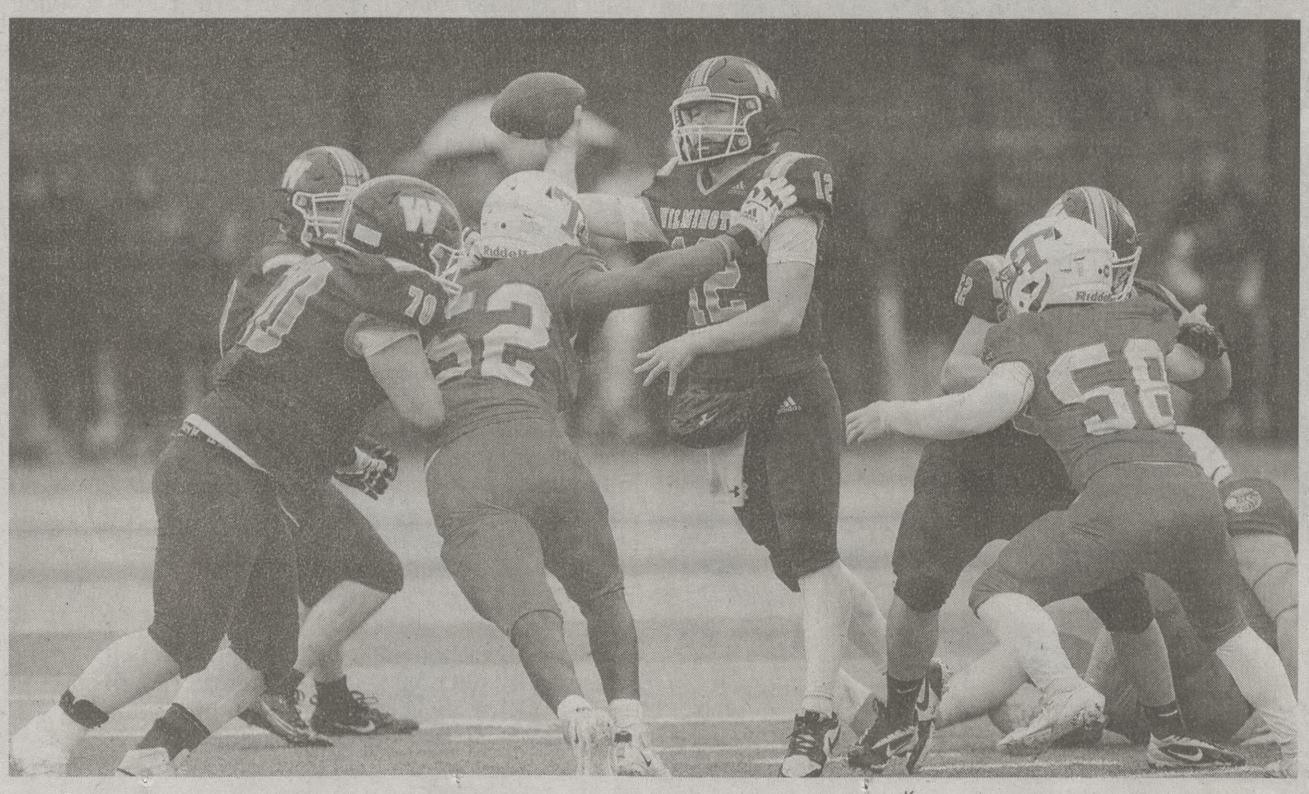
"They've been great," said Aylward. "They've done everything that we asked of them. It's easy for kids to come out and be part of games where there's all this excitement and attention and all that other stuff. It's what are you doing in March when the season is so far away and it's easy for people to look for instant gratification."

"I'm going to miss those guys," added Turner. "It wasn't easy, and they hung in there and battled. I can't say enough about how proud and how thankful I am to have those guys."



▲ Tewksbury's Vincent Ciancio (11) scrambles for extra yards against the Wilmington defense during Thursday's game at Doucette Stadium. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

▼ Wilmington's Ayden Bellevy (1) tries to evade Tewksbury's Ben Christopher (1) as he runs the ball during Thursday's game at Doucette Stadium. (Credit Image: James Thomas)



◀ Wilmington's Mark Holleran (12) throws a pass as he is pressured by Tewksbury's Victor Muyanja (52) during Thursday's game at Doucette Stadium. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

Shawsheen Tech's Brayton Carbone (1) carries the American Flag onto the field just before the start of Friday's football game in Billerica against Greater Lowell Tech.
(Credit Image: James Thomas)

Shawsheen football beats the stuffing out of AC

Thanksgiving Day football game a blowout from the start for undefeated Rams

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Shawsheen Tech football team easily cruised to victory on Thanksgiving Day against visiting Arlington Catholic by a 47-0 score.

The game was an appetizer for the final game of the season for the undefeated Rams, Friday night's Div. 5 Super Bowl against Foxborough.

Shawsheen improved to 11-0 with its blowout of AC.

Senior Zack Timmons of Wilmington had the first two Ram scores, a 3-yard run to make it 7-0 and an 8-yard to make it 14-0.

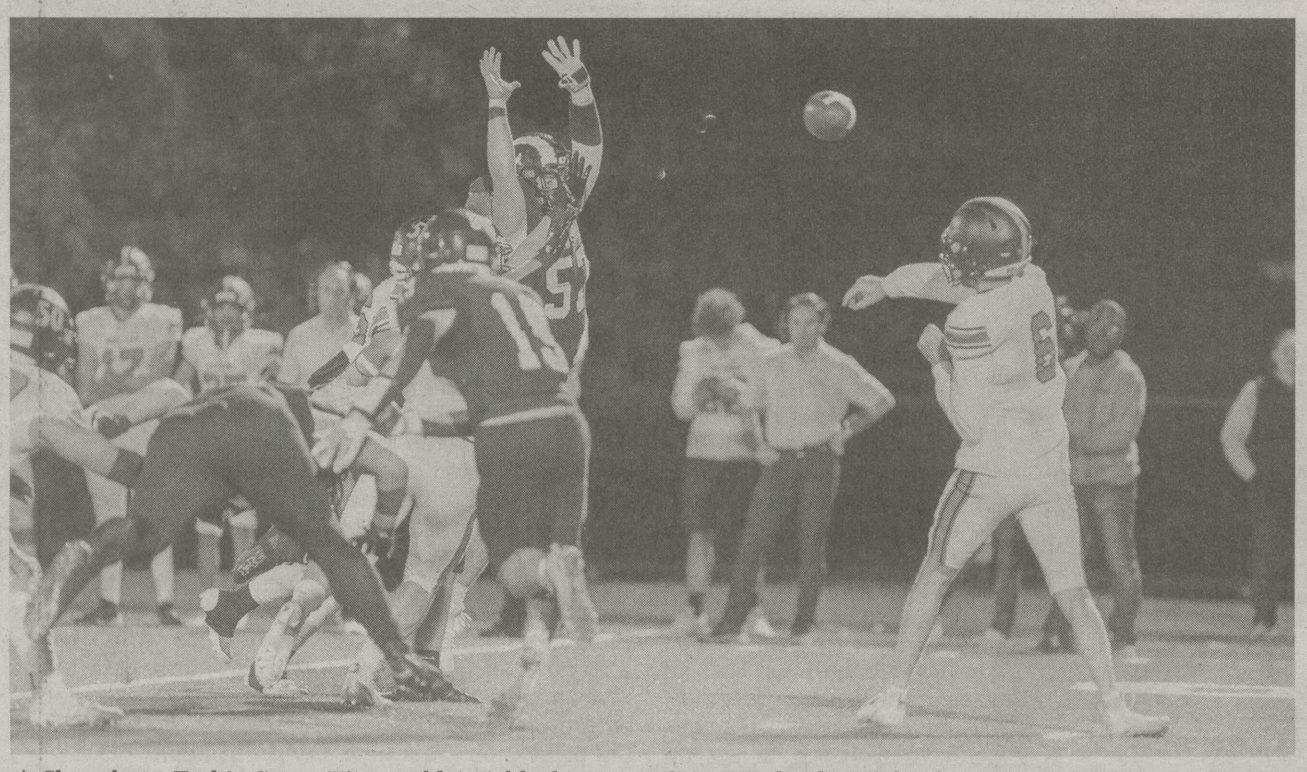
Shawsheen took a 21-0 lead when senior quarterback Sid Tildsley of Billerica connected with junior receiver Dyllon Pratt of Billerica for an 11-yard scoring play and Pratt had a 21-yard interception return for a touchdown to make it 28-0.

Senior Jack Finn of Billerica was 4 for 4 on extra points in the first quarter.

Timmons scored his third touchdown in the second quarter, an 11-yard run, to make it 35-0 and senior Trent Wedge of Wilmington had a 4-yard touchdown run to close out the first-half scoring. Finn had a rare extra point miss, but the Rams still led 41-0 at intermission.

The only scoring of the second half came in the third quarter when junior Kyle Marrone of Wilmington caught a 58-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Adam Caruso of Billerica.

Sid Tildsley is wrapping up a historic career at Shawsheen.
(Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ Shawsheen Tech's Conor Fitzgerald (52) blocks a pass from Wayland's Michael Keenan (6) during Friday's night's football game in Billerica. Shawsheen Tech topped Wayland 28-0. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

Rams play for all the marbles Friday

Shawsheen football hoping to complete unprecedented season

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Fans that can make it Gillette Stadium on Friday night at 5:30 p.m., should do it.

Seeing the Shawsheen Tech football team, guided by senior quarterback Sid Tildsley, do its thing, is worth the trip.

Since Tildsley suited up for the Rams as a freshman, the results have been staggering.

That first year, Shawsheen went 6-5, beating Arlington Catholic by a 35-28 score on Thanksgiving.

The win over AC is significant because it started a home winning streak for Shawsheen that is still intact.

As a sophomore, Tildsley helped Shawsheen go 12-0 before losing to a high-octane North Reading team in the Div. 5 Super Bowl.

Shawsheen scored 406 points that season, an average of 31.23 points per game.

Junior year, the Rams went 9-0 before falling to Foxborough in the state semifinals by a 42-12 score.

Shawsheen then beat AC on Thanksgiving Day by a 41-7 score.

The Rams ended up with 354 points in 11 games that season, an average of 32.18.

This season, Shawsheen is a perfect 12-0 heading into the Super Bowl and the numbers are eye-popping.

The Ram defense has allowed one touchdown or less in 11 of the 12 games, giving up 20 points in the season-opening 35-20 win against Bedford.

The defense has registered four shutouts and has given up 47 points for the season, that's less than four points per game. Take the Bedford game out, and the Rams average 2.45 points against.

Offensively, the Rams

RAMS | PAGE B7

◀ Sid Tildsley of Shawsheen Tech runs the ball as he is pressured by multiple Old Rochester defenders during Friday's MIAA Division 5 state semi-final game in Scituate, MA. Shawsheen Tech won 28-7.
(Credit Image: James Thomas)

RAMS FROM PAGE B6

have 472 points, just under 40 points per game.

Yes, 40.

RAM NOTEBOOK:

The Voice

Senior **Nathan Melo** of Wilmington wears No. 87 and is a big tight end and hard-hitting lineman.

He also possesses another talent that Ram fans are familiar with.

His voice.

Before every home game, Melo sings the national anthem and it would be hard to dispute, he's pretty darn good at it.

Getting his kicks

Senior **Jack Finn** is Shawsheen's kicker and boy, can he hammer the ball. One of the best parts of Shawsheen home games is watching players sprint behind the end zone after Ram touchdowns and try to catch Finn's booming extra points.

Oh brother

Several brother combinations are on the Shawsheen roster.

Twin brothers **Jake and Eric Banda**, whose father Eric is an assistant coach on the team, are joined on the squad by freshman brother **Cameron Banda**.

Senior **Brayton Carbone** and his sophomore brother **Quinn** are on the team together as are junior **Jake Giordano** and freshman **Ryan Giordano**. **Will and Hunter Holloway** are another brother duo as well as **Sid and James Tildsley**.

Three other players, **Nathan Malandian, Ethan Caceres** and **Kyle Marrone**, had brothers on the team last year.

Additionally, **Zack Timmons** and **Dyllon Pratt** had brothers who were standout players for the Rams previously.

Foxborough is tough

Friday's opponent from Foxborough will be a difficult task for the Rams.

Foxborough is 8-4 heading into the game, but played a brutal non-league schedule that included King Philip, Scituate and Walpole. Scituate is in the Div. 4 Super Bowl and beat Foxborough by a 21-14 score.

King Philip is in the Div. 2 Super Bowl and beat Foxborough 21-6 and Walpole made the Final Four in Div. 3 before losing to Mansfield. Walpole beat Foxborough, 21-18.

Those were the first three games of the season. After that, Foxborough won its next eight games including playoff victories over Danvers, Dedham and second-seeded Hanover by a 14-7 score.

Foxborough lost to Mansfield by a 21-7 score on Thanksgiving Day, giving the team three of its four losses against state finalists.

▲ Shawsheen Tech's Zack Timmons (33) stiff arms Greater Lowell Tech's Xavienh Quinones (10) as he moves the ball down the field during Friday's football game in Billerica.

(Credit Image: James Thomas)

Sid making history

Before absorbing Sid Tildsley's career numbers at quarterback, understand that No. 12 has missed the fourth quarter in just about every game this season, and the third quarter in several.

Heading into Friday's Super Bowl, here's what Tildsley has done.

- He's 18th in Massachusetts history with 5,232 career passing yards.
- 69 career touchdown passes, tied for 18th all time and just one behind Newton South's Austin Burton, who had 70 in 2015. Northbridge's Danny Brown had 72 touchdown passes before graduating in 2002.
- 40 victories at quarterback
- 2,176 career rushing yards
- Five punt returns for touchdowns including two in one game earlier this year
- Thirteen career interceptions including three for touchdowns
- 123 career touchdowns
- 8,943 yards from scrimmage

Other random thoughts...

Greg Bendel is the smoothest public address announcer around.

Cullen Walsh, a senior from Wilmington, is a terrific lineman. He's been a huge reason why Shawsheen's defensive numbers are so impressive

James Tildsley doesn't get the attention that his older brother does, but James is a dominant linebacker for the Rams and a terrifying matchup for most opposing linemen.

Jake Banda is a beast when he's handed the ball.

You get the feeling that **Zack Timmons** would drive the bus, run the concession stand and sell raffle tickets if it meant it would help the Rams. A senior captain along with Walsh and Sid Tildsley, Timmons has been a dual threat for Shawsheen as both a running back and a receiver.

Dyllon Pratt's ability to catch a football is ridiculous.

The Dougout:

Friday night will be a special one in Methuen

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Friday is the annual event in memory of Michael P. Ippolito.

It's a preseason hockey jamboree in Methuen involving teams from Tewksbury High and Wilmington High along with a few other communities.

All of the proceeds from the event go to scholarships in Michael's memory. The first puck drops at 6 p.m.

The games don't count in any standings, but they sure do count for the committee assembled to help pick the scholarship winners.

I'm on that committee.

It's an honor.

Mike was an amazing guy. A true friend. A pure gentleman.

The jamboree will have some really good items that people can win along with what I consider the highlight of the night, the Ippy Awards. These are golden hockey pucks that are presented to a player on each participating team, rewarding them for hustle and sportsmanship and all kinds of good stuff that my pal Mike used to love writing about.

Mike's wonderful wife and his two sons pick the Ippy Award winners.

Over the years before this event, I've tried to tell a few of my favorite stories about my time with Mike.

He was, mostly, a competitor of mine.

I wrote for competing newspapers while Mike was reporting for the Wilmington and Tewksbury Town Criers.

Mike died in September of 2022, more than two years ago now, and I'm assuming there are some people in Wilmington and Tewksbury and at Shawsheen Tech now that never knew Mike.

So, instead of rehashing some funny memories, I think it's a good time to reintroduce some people to Michael.

As a reporter, he was one of the best.

He was a "sideline guy" at football games, a dying breed among writers as most scribes choose to sit in the comfy and warm confines of the press box.

Not Mike.

Admittedly, when he brought his sons to games with him, he'd bypass the sidelines to show his boys the fancy perch reserved for dad. I'd look up at the press box often and watch Mike showing his children what he did.

It was awesome.

I'm sure they were proud moments for Mike, and they were the rare times I wouldn't bust his chops for not being down on the field.

When Mike was on the sidelines, despite being vertically challenged, he and his notebook would be there no matter what the temperatures or weather was like often poking his head between players to see what was going down on the field.

He was an old school scribe.

A throwback.

His interviews were always very good. I often listened to his questions and didn't have much to say when it was my turn to ask the same coach questions.

Pointing to Mike and saying "what he said" is usually what came to mind.

He covered every sport with the same professionalism and courtesy that he seemed to bring to everyday life. He took the job of promoting high school sports seriously. In reality, even though games can be streamed and watched from anywhere these days, Mike appreciated his job as the story teller and did it very well.

What I remember most about Michael was his personality.

He was one of the nicest people I ever knew.

I still remember getting a phone call from former Town Crier sports editor Jamie Pote that day in September with the worst news imaginable, that Mike had died.

It was a Monday morning. That day sucked.

I dreaded attending my first football game without Mike.

The Shawsheen Tech football team was one of Mike's regular beats. He loved the Rams.

When I got to the field that Friday night to see Shawsheen play, I was greeted by a bunch of grieving Shawsheen coaches, who were all as classy and empathetic as anyone could ask. The team remembered Mike before the game and said his name in unison after the victory.

Coincidentally, Shawsheen plays in the Div. 5 Super Bowl on Friday night while Mike's festivities are being held in Methuen.

The timing couldn't be better.

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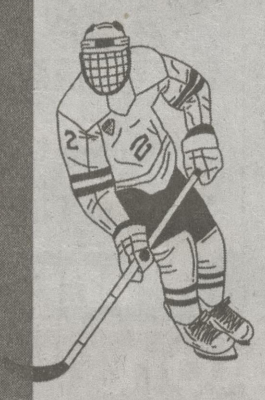

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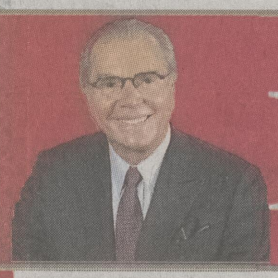

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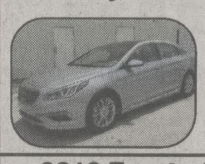

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